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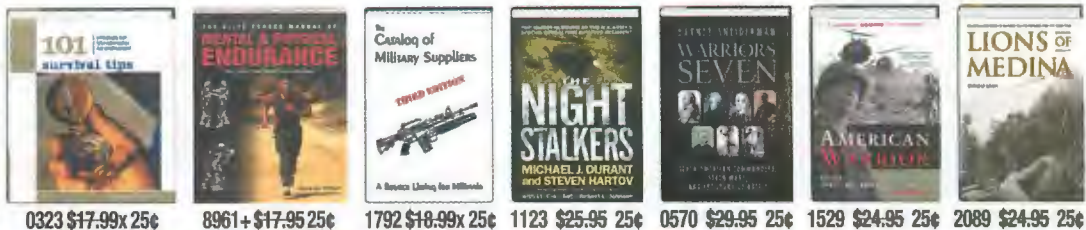
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FIREFORCE One Man's War in the Rhodesian Light Infantry from Paladin Press -- "the best book on the Rhodesian War ever written"; THE SAINTS: The Rhodesian Light Infantry also from Paladin Press, a glossy, coffee-table history with hundreds of unique and previously unpublished color photos, maps and personal memorabilia; and, the See & Not Be Seen Periscope from CampCo.



ON THE COVER

Lt Col. Fred Blish (ret.) is carrying a Colt M4A1 Carbine with an M203 Grenade Launcher. The M4A1 has a Gem-Tech HALO Suppressor attached and an Aimpoint CompM4 for an optic. Blish is wearing the Eagle industries CIRAS Vest with Triple M4 Mag Pouch and a Stay-In-The-Fight Guardian Gun Shot Wound Trauma Kit. He is wearing Oakley M-Frame 2.0 Ballistic Glasses and a Light Weight Helmet with an Oregon Aero BLISS Kit and a Surefire Helmet Light attached.





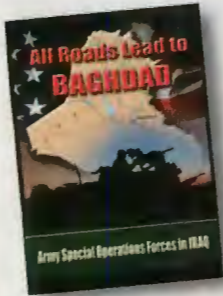
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An Analysis of Target Systems for Practical Training in Defensive Shooting by Louis Awerbuch



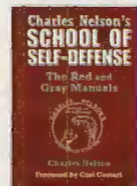
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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.)



Operation Tarnished Eagle: Besmirches All That This Nations Stands For – Or Should Stand For

One of the most egregious miscarriages of justice we have seen was initiated on 4 June 2007, when 200 law enforcement agents swooped down on a group of Laotian freedom fighters lead by 77-year-old General Vang Pao and arrested them for violating the Neutrality Act. They had plotted to overthrow the murderous communist government in Laos from which they had fled when the U.S. sold out the anti-communist forces in S.E.Asia in 1975. Their noble objective was to free their oppressed people.

Vang Pao played a key, if not the key, role in fighting for U.S. interests in Laos from 1962 to 1975, during which tens of thousands of Hmong tribesmen were KIA.

The plot, which was conceived and nurtured by the boobs and buffoons at the ATF, was amateurish, unrealistic and doomed to fail. It consisted of the lead ATF snitch, allegedly a 10-year SEAL veteran, sucking Vang Pao and his accomplices, including an obviously either not-too-bright or extremely naïve retired U.S.Army officer, into believing he would provide them with Stinger missiles, small arms and ammo.

The weapons would then be transported to safe houses in Thailand and Laos. The ATF snitch sweetened the pot by promising to provide a 25-man group of former Special Forces troopers who were now mercenaries.

As Richard Lloyd Perry, Asia Editor for the Times, noted, "...U.S. authorities find themselves in the ironic position of leaping to the defense of an authoritarian regime they spent 13, years and many lives, trying to destroy."

But those of us who have watched the shenanigans of the ATF during the existence of SOF are not surprised by such folly. The ATF has been long known for being more interested in bringing "high profile" cases to court to obtain additional funding as well as nailing another trophy to the wall. Remember Waco?

If the ATF truly had the interest of the U.S. public as its first priority, it would have used all the assets and considerable funds expended on this boondoggle to take

down drug dealers with illegal guns. But, of course, busting a few druggies with guns doesn't make headlines and also...they would run the risk of being turned into forensic evidence!

If the ATF had any ethics or principles, they would have taken Vang Pao aside when they first got involved in this plot and informed him, "General, we know you have the best interests of your countrymen at heart, that you wish to overthrow a communist dictatorship. But you can't do it from the U.S. You will be violating the Neutrality Act and if you continue, we will put you in jail."

I witnessed a similar travesty back in 1966 when I personally got involved in an equally noble attempt to overthrow the vicious dictatorship of Papa Doc Duvalier who ruled the squalid little country of Haiti. The FBI, in this case, was monitoring the progress of the plot for six months before they busted the would-be invaders. (I bailed out a few months before the bust as the security for the op unraveled. But that's a story for another time.)

The plotters included Cuban exiles, American soldiers of fortune and Haitian exiles. There was the occasional con man or two, Cubans dreaming of using Haiti as a base to invade Cuba, (no really...and they weren't smoking funny cigarettes...I don't think). However, the Haitians, lead by the Catholic priest, Father Georges, were sincere patriots dedicated to overthrowing the forces of evil in their homeland. All the Feds would have to have done was to tell Father Georges that they knew what he was up to and if he continued, he would be getting free room and board. But no, just like the ATF bums, they were more interested in trophies on the wall and headlines in the papers.

I will close by registering my abject disgust for this former SEAL who played the ignominious role as chief snitch and provocateur. What a disgusting thug. Hopefully, he will be identified and we can help make him famous.

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE



MAGAZINE

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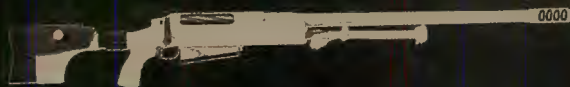
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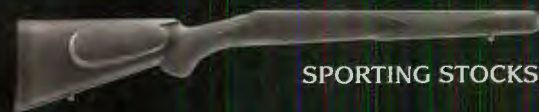
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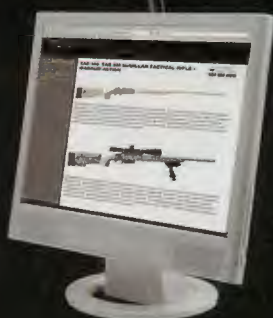


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Fort-Right Corrections...
Photo, Page 66, August 2007

Thanks for a great magazine. As a professional military historian, I enjoy reading the non-biased stories you publish. I must, however, point out an error in the caption of the photograph on page 66 of the August 2007 issue. The historic aircraft flying formation with the B-52 is a B-17 Flying Fortress, not a B-29 Super Fortress as the caption states.

Both the B-17 and the B-29 were instrumental in winning World War II, and the B-29 is perhaps most famous as the type of allied bomber that dropped the two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, but it is not pictured in the photograph with the B-52.

Sincerely,
Roy L. Gilliland
Curator/General Manager
North Carolina Aviation Museum

In spite of the misidentification of the B-17 Flying Fortress as a "Super Fortress" (which was the B-29) in the August issue, your magazine has been one of my primary sources of ground truth since I was a teenager. I try to get information from as many diverse sources as possible, and then triangulate something close to the truth from that. SOF is incredibly consistent in getting

Restored B-17G Flying Fortress "Shoo Shoo Shoo Baby" on a test flight near Dover AFB in 1988, after restoration by 512th Military-Airlift Wing, is believed to be only flyable B-17 in existence to have flown combat missions in WW II. Photo: USAF by Master Sergeant Ken Hammond



things right, and doing it years before anyone else in the media business.

I hope you understand how important your efforts are to preserving our freedom; *SOF* has been inspirational to me, and I have tried to educate those around me as to the important issues facing us as people and as a country. I am trying to follow your example, and a number of people I know have changed the way they think and the way they vote as a direct result of my persuasion, based on issues reported in *SOF*. Two of my brothers have

done the same. And the people we have woken up have then gone on to affect others.

Words are one of the most important weapons in the fight for freedom and truth, and *SOF* is great ammo!

My business is a production/post-production company based in Silicon Valley, so I have plenty of opportunity to exchange ideas with people whose opinions are diametrically opposed to mine. It is possible to have civil and

Continued on page 54

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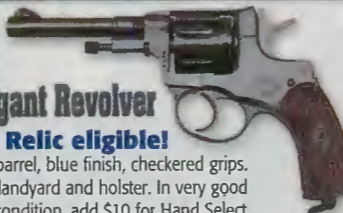
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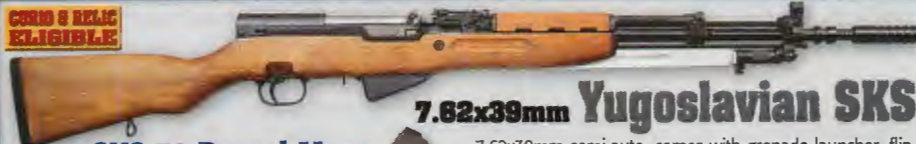
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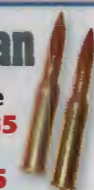
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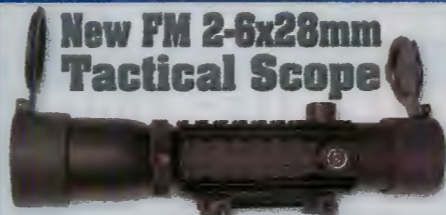
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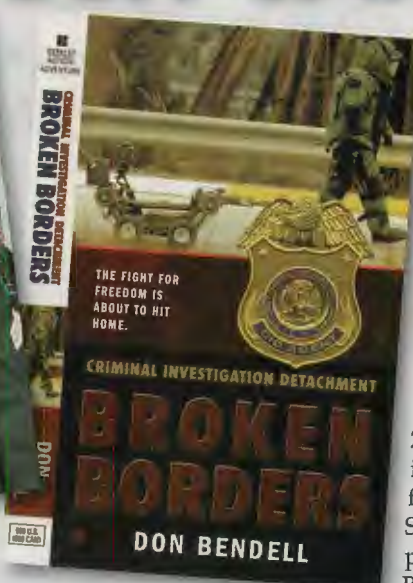


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Beret. The Sergeants Bendell are presently assigned to the First Group at Ft. Lewis. Don is a veteran of Vietnam and the Phoenix program, now retired. He is author of many books ranging from historical works, martial arts manuals, action fiction and science fiction. Don Bendell is also a highly regarded martial arts instructor. His current page-turner CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DETACHMENT 2: BROKEN BORDERS, is second in a current trilogy about decorated former Delta Force member and SF Major Bobby Samuels, and his partner and love interest Captain Bo Devore, both Army C.I.D. agents specializing in SpecOps

[Editor's note: due to an error this photo was run last issue with the wrong caption. It is reprinted here with the correct caption, and with apologies to Don Bendell and our readers.]

Only Three of 100 Men

Only three of 100 men who apply for Army Special Forces make it through the

program to wear a Green Beret. With those stats in mind, one would have to acknowledge that the Bendell family of Canon City, Colo., has done its part: Pictured here are SSG Brent, former CPT Don, and SGT Joshua Bendell after a recent Ft. Bragg ceremony where Joshua was awarded his Green

investigations, who are investigating the infiltration of al-Qaida with backpack "nukes" into the U.S. posing as illegal Mexican migrant workers (available now from Amazon.com, Borders, and most places books are sold).

Continued on page 38

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BRAVE NEW WAR

The Age of the Internet Ushers in the Age of the Merc

An interview and review by Jim Morris

BRAVE NEW WAR

THE NEXT STAGE OF TERRORISM
AND THE END OF GLOBALIZATION

JOHN ROBB

Recently, LTC Robert K. Brown read *Brave New War: The Next Stage of Terrorism and the End of Globalization*, by John Robb, a former Air Force officer with a SpecOps background. Highly impressed, he asked correspondent Jim Morris, best known for his coverage of Vietnam and the guerrilla wars of the 80s, to interview Robb for an update on 21st Century guerrilla war.



Jim Morris:

Your book had the effect of making me rethink every thought I've had on the subject of guerrilla warfare since about 1962, and in that period about half my thoughts were on some aspect of guerrilla warfare.

But, as you have demonstrated, GW has changed a lot during that period, as has every other aspect of social organization.

A while back Ralph Peters did a piece on the new *Guerrilla Warfare* manual, in which he stated that everything about guerrilla warfare had changed. And, as your book so clearly demonstrates, it has. Open Source Warfare is vastly different than the War of National Liberation strategy we faced in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. But my thought when I read that piece was that all or most of these changes are in addition to, not in lieu of.

At the risk of tooting my own horn (a risk I frequently take) I'm going to quote a short passage from my book *The Devil's Secret Name*, which was about guerrilla wars in the '80s.

The Mao Model

"The basic tenets of Mao's model for revolutionary warfare are easy to remember because they are organized in three sets of threes.

"There are three sine qua nons of guerrilla warfare. In all of recorded history no revolution, barring the occasional coup d'etat, has succeeded without them, and I know of none that has failed in which all three were present.

"The first is support of a significant percentage of the population. A majority is not necessary. Fifteen percent will do it. Of the majority it is only necessary that they be indifferent. It is also necessary that the guerrillas have secure areas from which to operate. A handy border to duck over, which government troops are forbidden to cross, is best, but an impenetrable swamp or mountain fastness will do in a pinch. The third necessary ingredient is help from a foreign government, which can provide arms, ammunition, medical supplies, money. Perhaps the most invaluable thing the outside force provides is legitimacy. Without it the guerrillas have the feeling that they are only bandits in an evil place.

"The revolutionaries themselves also fall into three distinct groups. First are the guerrillas, then the underground of spies and saboteurs in towns and cities, and then the auxiliaries, the aforementioned fifteen percent who provide the active support.

If they do seek outside legitimacy it is often not with governments (i.e. with Saudi clerics for fatwas). It's possible to gain merely by destroying the legitimacy of the government...

"Revolutions then proceed in three stages. The first is political organization. Second comes guerrilla warfare, small-stage raids and ambushes up to battalion size. Only in the third stage, when

the guerrillas graduate into a regular conventional army, do they attempt to take and hold territory. By then the government troops are usually in rout, and territory falls easily into guerrilla hands."

That's the old model. In your paradigm I see two significant changes. First, the outside support does not have to come from a government, and second, the guerrillas usually do not attempt to graduate to stage three. Everything else above, it seems to me, still holds true. The guerrillas in Iraq hide in the warrens of the cities, rather than in a jungle, but they still need safe areas. Many other things are true in the new paradigm as well. But I think that much of the old model still holds. Let's find out how much you agree with where I'm coming from, and then we'll go on.

Brave New (Guerrilla) War



John Robb

Excellent. Let's break this down.

1) "The first is support of a significant percentage of the population. A majority is not necessary. Fifteen percent will do it. Of the majority it is only necessary that they be indifferent."

Interesting twist here is that support can be shared across multiple groups. It might be better phrased with, "as long as the aggregate support for insurgents groups is a significant percentage of the population." The smaller percentages can be pieced together. It is also in the interest of the insurgency to create support for other



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SUREFIRE

oppositional groups (i.e. attacks on Shiites). The more divided in loyalties, the more participant groups.

2) "It is also necessary that the guerrillas have secure areas from which to operate. A handy border to duck over, which government troops are forbidden to cross, is best, but an impenetrable swamp or mountain fastness will do in a pinch."

Much less true and increasingly urban. This is in part due to smaller group size, which means that "safe areas" may be much smaller and potentially only neighborhoods. They can come into being and flicker out very quickly (likely temporary zones of autonomy like Fallujah or Ramadi were at any given point).

3) The third necessary ingredient is help from a foreign government, which can provide arms, ammunition, medical supplies, money. Perhaps the most invaluable thing the outside force provides is legitimacy. Without it the guerrillas have the feeling that they are only bandits in an evil place."

Not really true anymore. They can self-fund often via links to global black markets (which work two ways -- inbound and outbound). If they do seek outside legitimacy it is often not with governments (i.e. with Saudi clerics for fatwas). It's possible to gain merely by destroying the legitimacy of the government. Self-generated legitimacy often comes in the form of codes of conduct -- Sharia law or gang law (i.e. the PCC has a code that it uses in Sao Paulo). It doesn't have to deliver services since it can parasitically provide them via the national infrastructure or via black markets.

4) "The revolutionaries themselves also fall into three distinct groups. First are the guerrillas, then the underground of spies and saboteurs in towns and cities, and then the auxiliaries, the aforementioned fifteen percent who provide the active support."

In some cases. In other cases, the teams are assembled ad hoc via a financier.

"Revolutions then proceed in three stages. The first is political organization. Second comes guerrilla warfare, small-stage raids and ambushes up to battalion size. Only in the third stage, when the guerrillas graduate into a regular conventional army, do they attempt to take and

hold territory. By then the government troops are usually in rout, and territory falls easily into guerrilla hands."

This doesn't apply anymore.

Bureaucracy is Obsolete

That was great. Okay, say I have deconstructed the model that my generation of counterinsurgents learned and delineated what holds and what doesn't.

Having observed some of the same phenomena you have codified I have come up with a few notions. One of those notions is that bureaucracy, at least bureaucracy as we know it, is obsolete.

In the 60s HUMMRO published a study that concluded that no one person could control the activities of more than five other people. That's when they organized fire teams within the squad. Intuitively that principle is what led to the pyramidal organizational structure in the first place. But what seems to be true now is that (within the guerrillas) nobody controls anybody.

The individual and the pyramid have both been replaced by the flock, and, with everybody in communication with everybody else all the time, people take action through consensus, not by order. The top-down pyramid organizational structure is simply too slow and cumbersome to deal with that. And, that's not just true in guerrilla warfare, but in all human interaction across the board.

Right away we run into the problem of what I call the "Iron Law of Bureaucracy," which states that any governmental organization, no matter its ostensible purpose, exists primarily to enlarge its budget and personnel.

If we try to reconfigure to fight the current paradigm, we're going to have to deal with a huge number of very pissed off and powerful people within the establishment. I'm pretty sure that DoD would react to a move to eliminate middle management by considering this attempt to fix the problem as a much more of a threat than the problem itself. So, established society must find a way to determine what to abandon and what to adopt, and then find a way to actually do it. What are your ideas on this?

The Day of the Merc

J.R.: You are exactly right. However, the solution is already in process. The security bureaucracy is slowly being outsourced in fits and starts

(as are a growing number of nation-state functions). This trend line will continue.

Here's some thinking about how this would work over the longer term: The reason we are outsourcing security is that one of the best ways to generate innovation is through a competitive marketplace. That said, the current approach of big, lumbering companies and no-bid contracts is a failure. We need to build a market-based security platform (standards, core services, etc.) that will allow us to get small competitive players innovating. Once that happens, you have to police the marketplace and set the standards high. This means tough rules.

Reward innovation and success lavishly. Punish failure harshly.

How we get from here to this future situation is tough to envision, but something like this is going to happen.

SOF: The forces arrayed against it are formidable. Having joined Special Forces when it was barely 10 years old, a lot of examples of resistance to innovation come immediately to mind.

And it's understandable why the military is a conservative institution. If you make a mistake somebody, usually a lot of somebodies, dies. If you make it in combat they die immediately, and if you make it in training they die later. But that burden is crushing, and it makes senior leaders very cautious.

So, let's jump forward, past the obstacles, and assume we can do this under ideal conditions. How? If you were putting together a start-up company, how would you organize it? Who would you recruit, how would you train them? How would you employ them, and how would your command and control functions operate? What gear would you use, and how would you fight?

Oops, sorry. I just asked you to write another book, and cram it into about 1500 words. Hey, what are friends for?

J.R.: Wow! First off, obviously this won't work in conventional warfare.

We need to build a market-based security platform (standards, core services, etc.) that will allow us to get small competitive players innovating. Once that happens, you have to police the marketplace and set the standards high. This means tough rules...



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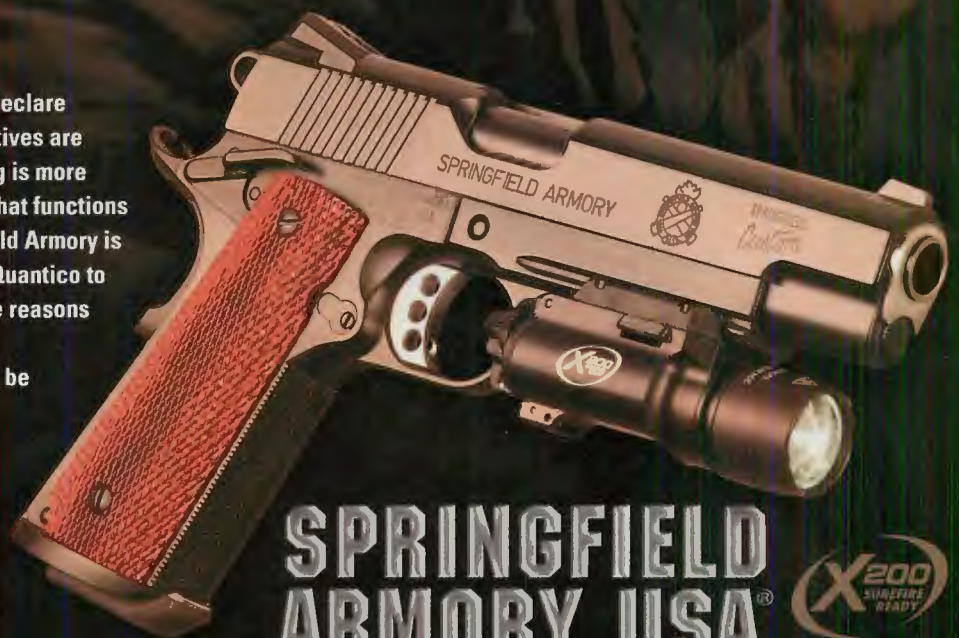
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How would I build a start-up in this space? Hey, I'm not sure I would do anything different than the guys at Blackwater are doing in terms of recruiting, equipment, and training. The question is whether a private firm can do counter-insurgency, intelligence production, or snatch and grabs in addition to personal/facility security guards. I think that there is ample evidence that they can. However, the more limited and defined the mission, the easier it is to judge the effectiveness of the effort within a marketplace framework. Broad contracts without measurable goals = SNAFU.

Granted, there have been some growing pains with the industry, but it will get better if the proper framework is put in place. You are exactly right, there is room for a book on how to run private military operations across a broad spectrum of situations.

Problem Areas

Here are some more problem areas:

The military contracting system

doesn't appear even close to putting a system together to manage this fast moving marketplace correctly. This is a huge problem and the answers are difficult to discern.

How do we reconcile private military forces with the U.S. military in theater? How do they respond to the military chain of command? Again, [I'm] not sure how to do this.

The legal frameworks that define

possible.

Morris: Let me play for a minute with my own question, and then let's hear what you have to say about that.

If this were my deal I'd want to get as many high-level operators as possible, Delta guys, SEAL Team 6 guys, SF Operators, but also anthropologists, language experts, intelligence experts. Somewhere in that lot would be a smart, aggressive, charismatic guy who could hold a team together, hopefully more than one such person. But it would be understood; he, or she, is a focal point, not a dictator.

I'd start with something like the Special Forces ODA and add and subtract as necessary. I'd go on the theory that sometimes they'd be in a direct action role and sometimes they'd build a local force.

Government might not be the best place to start. When business, big or otherwise, gets that government isn't doing them much good in this situation they may want to hire their own shooters.

Government won't like that. Government likes to think it has a monopoly on defending its people, even when it can't or won't do it. Well, as you observed, government isn't very effective in this situation. We may have to go extralegal. Been there, done that.

But let's say we have the team, the

Continued on page 33



Brave New War: The Next Stage of Terrorism and the End of Globalization, by John Robb, is available in hardback from John Wiley and Sons, or on Amazon.com

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IT'S ONLY A LINE IN THE SAND

Between America and Mexico Lies not a Border,
But a Line of Criminal Demarcation, Part I

BY ROBERT BURNS & PHOTOS BY U.S. EVOLUTIONS

San Diego County 0630 hrs,

"I've got a single -- South." It's just after sunrise. A civilian observation team quickly takes up observation positions. Demoralized after an earlier pre-dawn group was detected but evaded them to the east before they could be intercepted, they're now all eyes. A tight 360-degree scan of the area is maintained. It is common for people to show in one area -- as a distraction to allow another group to cross unobserved.

Within minutes, the solo person spotted becomes two people. Then three. Then four. "Highpointing" -- standing on high terrain like prairie dogs -- they're all gathered on a piece of ground within 100 meters of the U.S.-Mexico border, giving them a commanding view of their possible routes north. The first guide has begun pointing out routes. A second man with binoculars is scanning for *La Migra* -- the Border Patrol -- or, occasionally, National Guard observers. There's a BP jeep on a high point for the moment, as there has been for the past 48 hours.

But as usual, at the 0800 shift change, the agent packs up his thermal gear, loads it up, and drives down off the OP to return to HQ. Within two minutes, the south-side guides and their group, 16 people total, have moved up to their favorite hole in the border fence. At 0806, after checking the border road one last time, they make their move north.

Unfortunately for this group of illegals, they never saw the watch team observing and documenting their every move. The group notifies Border

Patrol and local property owners as well. One of the residents sees the departing BP jeep, and flags him down and turns him around.

As soon as the group crosses onto private property (the border road -- all 1900+ miles of it -- is public access) they're trespassing, and a vehicle team roars right on top of them to their crossing point. Two coyotes hear the vehicle, and TBS (Turn Back South).

One is slow getting sorted out, and the team immediately apprehends him, literally within sight of his buddies. He's the "Bootie Man" -- the guy with the backpack full of blanket "booties" worn by crossers to hide their footprint sign from the BP. One of the team keeps him in custody while the rest of the team gets on the group, following their trail and pushing them hard. Other elements immediately move to U.S.-side highpoints. The group may try to TBS, or keep pushing north. But with OPs all around and their south-side exit blocked, they're pinned, and have nowhere to run.

Once a pair of BP agents arrive, the group is stuck, and the group "lays up" in the heavy brush. The agents think the group might have gotten

away south. A quick call to the civilian observers cancels that idea: A check of videotape on the scene gets a confirmed count of the number of crossers. The night shift guys take the single and depart, and the civilians continue to search acres of brush. Finally, a BP helicopter arrives, and is directed by civilians on the ground via hand signals in the direction the group was last seen. After an hour of circling, the group is spotted: 13 are taken into custody. One person, almost certainly the lead coyote, has evaded solo. Usually they'll dump their group and tell them they'll be right back, leaving the group to get taken in.

The fresh Border Patrol day shift agents quickly take the rest of the group into custody. Thirteen (out of 14 crossers, plus the two who TBS'ed) isn't a lucky number for this group. They'd waited two days in 100-degree heat for this opening to cross unseen. Now they're busted.

The civilians wave at the frustrated coyotes, who've been observed and photographed watching and calling the group via radio or cell phone in plain sight during the entire search, from their vantage point just a few meters into Mexico. The coyotes wave back, but they aren't using as many fingers as the civilian watchers did. It's just another morning shift change on the California border, and it isn't even 1000 hours.

Out Of Control And Overwhelmed

The California portion of the U.S. border with Mexico is 190 miles long, ranging from the Pacific Ocean

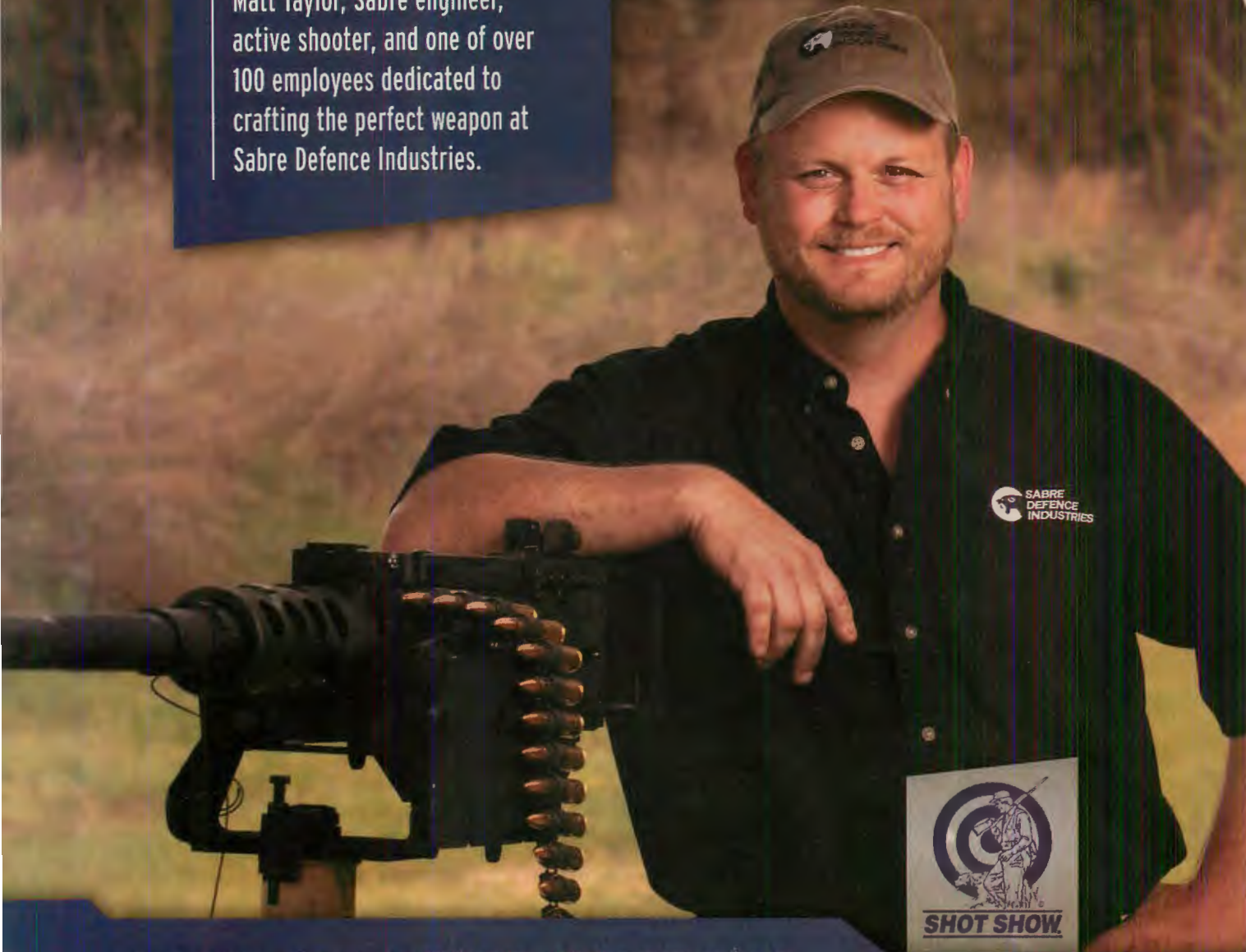


(top centre) Group of 14 crosses border road minutes after Border Patrol left observation point at morning shift change, aided by scout on high point at right. Photo: U.S. Evolutions (top right) Another group crosses the border after Border Patrol has left for shift change. Photo: U.S. Evolutions (bottom) The same group as in in top photo were in custody later that morning, after civilians spotted them, and combined with Border Patrol to intercept them. Photo: U.S. Evolutions

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(left to right) PSP metal fence in Smuggler's Gulch. Note that to left (Mexico) side, ground level rises to top of fence. This entire section is watched by one USBP agent. Photo: Robert Burns

Public Relations border fence near Brown's Field in San Diego, across from Tijuana International Airport. It looks impressive, but coyotes can cross 100 illegals across half a mile with ladders in two minutes. Photo: Robert Burns

Gun on hip, armed Mexican police officer stands well north of international border on American soil. He wasn't in hot pursuit of anyone – just scouting

beaches to the last drainage of the Colorado River near Yuma. The bulk of the crossing used to take place near San Diego, but Operation Gatekeeper in 1994 saw a huge effort to stop the human tidal wave through San Diego suburban neighborhoods, mainly by building a 14-mile long PR fence on both sides of the San Ysidro International Port Of Entry. The serious-looking part of the fence cleverly stops just out of news-camera range in both directions, giving way to either a low

anti-vehicle barrier made of recycled perforated steel planking (PSP), Vietnam-era military runway matting, or four-strand barbed wire cattle fencing...or just nothing.

None of it works like Washington claims. On a visit to the "serious" fence line, it appears to be all business: 14 feet tall, tiny holes too small to wedge a foot or finger in, tilted towards the Mexican side. Looks are deceiving. I asked Agent D, an eight-year veteran of the Border Patrol, how it works.

"Well, first of all, as you can see, I'm sitting here on a high spot, in plain view of anyone on the Mexican side with a rifle, or a cell phone or radio. My next nearest help is a 1/2-mile to the west. What happens is, the coyotes pay "Ladder Man" 10 bucks apiece to weld up 10 ladders out of rebar and scrap metal. Total cost, \$100. Then 10 groups will each carry a ladder up to the fence after dark in 10 different places along their side of the fence a few hundred



yards apart. On signal, all 10 ladders go up, they cross the vehicle PSP fence, then pull the ladder over, then repeat the process at the big fence. In less time than it takes to describe it, they've got 100 people over here.

Maybe my next nearest guy comes over to help, and we each catch five guys. The rest run into the warehouses 50 yards behind me, jump into waiting cars, and they're gone. Me and my partner catch 10, and 90 others make it in. The coyotes collect \$1K-\$2K apiece, so for a hundred dollar investment, they make maybe \$180,000. And that's every night, 24/7/365. While my partner is helping me, his section is uncovered, and while we're processing our 10 guys, both sections are wide open. So if no one calls in sick on our shift, we've got maybe a dozen guys to cover as many miles. Out to the east towards Otay Mesa, there're huge gaps and gullies so big they could march the 82nd Airborne Division

in, 10 abreast with a marching band, below my line of sight, and I'd never see them. And out there, there's no one watching. No one for miles. It's a joke."

"It's A Joke"

I get the exact same sentiment from Agent B, a Desert Storm Marine Corps vet and current veteran Border Patrol agent. I find him sitting in a place called Smuggler's Gulch. As a gully between two tall mesas, it's been a natural route across the border, north and south, back to cowboy times, hence the name. Now, there are two BP "scope trucks" with sophisticated

cameras and thermal sights on duty 24/7. They can see from the ocean to the western mesa, and from the eastern mesa almost to the San Ysidro Port of Entry and the "serious" fence. But not into Smuggler's Gulch. So with stadium lighting, a lone agent sits at the bottom watching for crossers, all day, every day, year around.



The fence here is just PSP. In fact, cleverly, the landing mat all along the U.S.-Mexican border was installed with the ridges facing south, making a natural ladder to climb. But it gets better here. In the gully, rainfall and drainage have pushed the adobe mud on the Mexican side up to the top at both sides, making the fence 0 feet tall. Someone can just walk up from Tijuana, and drop down into the U.S. I go up to photograph it, and am warned to beware of rock-throwers waiting right on the other side. I make it back okay, and the agent and I talk.

"You were lucky. We get 'rocked' every day. Even with the agents on the ATVs, they'll send five guys over to draw me off, and I have to go get them. Then while I'm busy, 50 more



THIS IS MY LIGHT.

There are many like it, but this one is mine.
It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life.
Without me my light is useless. Without my light, I am useless.
I must fire my light true. I must shoot straighter than the enemy
who is trying to kill me. I must shoot him before he shoots me.
I will. My light and I know that what counts in war is not the
rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, or the smoke we make.
We know that it is the hits that count. We will hit.

My light is human, even as I am human,
because it is my life. Thus, I will learn it as a brother. I will learn
its weaknesses, its strengths, its parts, its accessories, its switch and
its barrel. I will keep my light clean and ready, even as I am clean
and ready. We will become part of each other.

Before God I swear this creed. My light and I are the
defenders of my country. We are the masters of our enemy. We are
the saviors of my life. So be it, until victory is America's
and there is no enemy.

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go behind me the other way. It's only 200 yards to the paved road, and 1/2 mile down that road and you're in

San Ysidro. We recently caught an illegal alien/gang banger from L.A. with multiple murder warrants. He'd

(top left) Vehicle Check Point (VCP) on interstate 5-10 miles away from border. 13 marked vehicles are visible in this photo, and seven more are out of frame. Twenty agents could be watching 10 miles of border. Or, as here, securing one lane of traffic 10 miles away, while the border is completely unguarded or observed, as when this photograph was taken. Photo: U.S. Evolutions

(top right) Load vehicle stopped during crossing attempt. Vehicles typically have silicone pumped into tires to defeat spike strips, and reinforced bumpers to breach gates and roadblocks. Large rocks in brush at night proved more difficult to evade, causing occupants to smack into windshield. Photo: U.S. Evolutions



kill a rival gang member in L.A., then hide out in Mexico until the heat was off, then sneak back in. He did it nine times. We caught him one night crawling through the brush right behind where we're standing, and when we ran his prints and picture, jackpot. These aren't 'good-hearted workers.' They're guys who'd jack you up and slit your throat for your wristwatch or wallet. When we run them after apprehension, at least one in four of these guys have federal FBI file numbers (indicating serious criminal activity). The sheriff's busses from L.A. and so on will drop off the deportees still in their jail jumpsuits after doing their sentence, and we'll see them jumping back over the fence the same night, still in the jumpsuits. We catch them once, or twice, but eventually they make it, and back north they go. This is a joke."

Robbing Peter To Pay Paul

But the PR fence, Operation Gatekeeper, and dedicated rank-and-file agents have made a dent, which has driven the crossers and smugglers into eastern San Diego County, where there's virtually no enforcement. In the California border town of Jacumba, large numbers of residents on the American side assist cartel smugglers in Mexico around the clock, with virtually no law enforcement check in place. One house sits on the Mexican side, with a red and green light. Red light -- Border Patrol is here, no dope smuggling. Green light -- Anything goes!

Continued on page 36

MAKE IT PERSONAL

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16" DSC Patrol Rifle

This rifle is centered around a lightweight A-1 configuration 1x9 twist barrel, mounted on a forged flat top upper receiver. The 5 slot, A-2 phantom flash hider is both a useful tool for impact strikes and for hiding your flash signature. The YHM, four-rail hand guards allow unlimited versatility. Three low profile rail covers, GG&G flip-up MAD rear sight, Hogue rubber pistol grip, and DSC six-position M-4 buttstock are standard. Weight: 8 1/2 lbs. Overall Length: 32 3/4"
 Flattop upper \$1194.95



DSC Expedition Rifle

Another DoubleStar original! The Expedition barrel has a lightweight contour on the front end of the barrel and an integrated muzzle-brake for an amazing level of control and accuracy. The rest of the rifle is in the A-2 configuration with A-2 handguards, buttstock, and upper (also available with flattop). The upper has the mil-standard A-2 dual aperture sight in place, as do all the A-2 upped rifles. Weight: 8 lbs. Overall Length: 38"
 A-2 or flattop upper \$899.95
 Flattop w/detachable carrying handle \$954.95



DSC 24" Critter Slayer Rifle

This rifle is built around a 24" fluted Super Match barrel with the picatinny gas block configuration. Fluting increases rigidity and reduces flex, and a vibration which makes for a much more accurate shot. The Badger trapezoidal hand guards with Dragonov style cooling slots, add an amazing level of stability to the weapon, which is incredibly helpful during target acquisition. Comes with an Ergo Tactical grip with palm rest, Harris bipod, two stage trigger, and is available in flat-top or hi-rise configuration.
 Weight: 11 lbs. Overall Length: 42"
 Flattop or hi-rise upper \$1409.95



DSC DS-4 Carbine Rifle

The Star DS-4 is the semi-auto version of the M-4 Carbine the U.S. military use. It features a 16" chrome moly steel, 1x9 twist barrel with an A-2 flash suppressor and a precision machine cut M-203 mounting groove. Also comes with our DS-4 handguards and a 6-position DS-4 buttstock to make this a complete M-4 style weapon.
 Weight: 6 lbs. Overall Length: 35"
 A-2 or flattop upper \$889.95
 Flattop w/detachable carrying handle \$954.95



DSC Marksman Rifle

This rifle features a 20", 1x8 SS Wilson Arms premium grade air gauged barrel, free floated with a Daniel Defense 12.0 handguard, DSC's improved picatinny rail gas block, 5 slot A-2 phantom flash hider, two stage trigger and finished off with Magpul's MIAD grip system and PRS buttstock. All this in a rifle that weighs under 9 lbs. Weight: 8.9 lbs. Overall Length: 39"
 Flattop upper \$1679.95
 With GG&G HD Swivel Bipod \$1854.95



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Want To DESTROY YOUR ENEMIES with ease? Want to Always KNOW WHEN SOMEONE IS LYING & Make Them Tell The Truth? MENTAL WARFARE SECRETS

Totally NEW Program Shows You "HOW" To Dominate Life & Easily Hypnotize Others Into Obedience

By Tom Parks

Dear Friend,

Listen. I don't care what you think you might know about Mind Control and Mental Warfare -

YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS

Maybe you think such a thing doesn't even exist. If so, you're wrong. Dead wrong! And, I can prove it to you. Here's why:

By now you've heard of Ninja Mind Control, Black Ops, Seduction, NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming), Kahuna, Remote Viewing, Hypnotism, etc. Andrew Scott has done it ALL and distilled it down to

Quick Kill Methods of Instant Hypnotic Domination over ANYONE!

You've probably heard of Andrew Scott, the creator and founder of Warrior Hypnosis.

He's also the Fighting Secrets and Total Life Mastery guy you read about in these magazines all the time, or you've heard his interviews on national talk radio. He's in big demand, and rightfully so.

You see, Andrew has done it all in the field of Martial Arts and Combatives - CQC, Ju Jitsu & Jeet Kune Do Instructor, multiple Black Belts and Certified Law Enforcement Trainer.

He's had unparalleled success and heads up a Worldwide organization! But get this -

The Night My Life Changed Forever

After a grueling night of sparring against multiple armed attackers under Andrew's expert instruction, he decided to take the "Fight Club" out for pizza.

It's AMAZING to me that a guy like this can be so down-to-earth and human, considering the superhuman things he can do!

Want to know what I'm talking about? Read on friend, read on...

We arrived at the new pizza joint across town. The place was packed! The hostess says "I'm sorry, but it's a 45 minute wait to get a table."

Andrew steps in front of her, looks into her eyes and slightly smiles. There is three seconds of silence and then she says "yknow what, I'll just go clear you a table right away."

As she walked away, she kept turning back and gazing at Andrew like she was in heat!

Now keep in mind, none of us had been to this place before and we didn't know any of the people there.

I noticed all the women seem to be staring at Andrew like deer caught in the headlights. The men are all giving him respectful nods and stepping back to clear a path for him.

Finally, I decided to check it out for myself. I stepped up to a guy at the bar and pointed at Andrew and asked "do you know who that is?" The guy said "No, but he's the man isn't he?" How did Andrew

Radiate Unstoppable Confidence and Magnetize Everyone In The Room

Before the end of the night, no less than three hot vixens (including the waitress) had stuffed their phone numbers into Andrew's hand, and he had barely said a word to them! He tossed the numbers to us - it was no big deal to him at all!

And, he had two attorneys, a broker and a realtor at our table buying us drinks and begging to invest bucks into one of his enterprises! Andrew said no thanks, be-

cause he likes to keep all the profits for himself.

Does this all sound unreal, like something out of a movie? Well guess what, it's not. I was there and I can tell you in no uncertain terms: *It's All Real.*

You see, after YEARS of studying just about everything, Andrew got fed up and decided to only teach the

QUICK and DIRTY Methods of Getting Anything You Want From Anybody!

I asked Andrew "how do you do it?" "Do what?" he said. "Yknow, magnetize people like that?"

Andrew said "I don't intend to do it. It just simply is. Water doesn't intend to go where it goes - it doesn't "try" to go where it goes - it just goes there! And, like water...

I Go Wherever I Want and I Get Whatever I Want

...and you can do the same thing, Tom" I was astounded! Me? Do the same thing? OH MY GOD!

So he began to train me in Warrior Hypnosis. He showed me how to buy a car (I was completely broke at the time) and how to get my boss to raise my salary, all within a week. I did what he said AND IT WORKED!

MAKE THEM BEG!

Ex-girlfriends who had dumped me for more successful guys were *begging* to have me back, even offering to pay all of my bills!

My nagging step-mother, who's been trying to thwart me for years, was all of a sudden very afraid of me. I was astounded!

And, I knew I had changed forever. This wasn't some emotional cheerleading going on, this was a permanent change.

It wasn't any esoteric mumbo-jumbo either. Forget the agony and frustration of learning difficult tactics.

If you're as "lazy" as I am, and simply want the bottom line "how-to" you're gonna LOVE this...

Have you ever noticed how some people seem to be "lucky"? They always have their way, and life never seems to be a struggle?

They constantly have beautiful women on their knees begging, and they laugh about it, while you're always struggling to get a date with a chick who's "ok."

In this totally new program you can't find anywhere else, Andrew will show you how to have beautiful women eating out of your hand and obeying your commands, and you don't need money or good looks. Yes, it's true. See it for yourself!

Listen. Have you ever wondered why some people seem to effortlessly conquer every situation they face? Notice how life can be a constant struggle, or very disappointing and boring?

Well, as of RIGHT NOW, it's doesn't ever have to be that way for you again! Am I serious?

I Am DEADLY Serious.

In this new program, Andrew is going to show you what he has learned about Mind Control & Mental Warfare, because after he learned it, life has NEVER been a struggle for him.

This is not an exaggeration, but a simple statement of fact. And it's so simple and so absolute, so rock-solid, that once you "have it" your life will never be the same!

Nothing will phase you at all! In fact, danger and challenges are now an absolute JOY to face, because

VICTORY IS AUTOMATIC

Yes, I really do mean that. And I can prove it to you. Do you "want" the same power in your life? The first thing Andrew will show YOU is how to

"Thrive In Chaos!"

I don't care what you're up against. If you're out to be the top dog at work. If you're competing for a promotion or sales, with Andrew's Warrior Hypnosis phrasing, you'll mesmerize and astound the competition - who won't know a damn thing until it's too late!

The best part is when they say "NO!" When you get Andrew Scott's Mental Warfare Secrets, you'll be amazed when you learn:

- ✓ How To Get Out Of A Traffic Ticket
- ✓ Have A Client Write You A Big Fat Check, Even After they say "no"!
- ✓ Hypnotic Trance: Make Them Desire To Please You, Without Saying A Word!
- ✓ Psych Profile: Know Anything About Anyone In Minutes!

All you have to do is listen to this program once, then try it a few times and you'll be shouting with joy that

"THIS STUFF WORKS!"

Let me ask you something. Where have things been difficult in your life? I'll bet it's when other people don't do what you want them to do, am I right? Well listen up, because now is your chance to end those difficulties once and for all.

Once you "order this program" you can sit back and relax, because you're about to become a Warrior King who gets his way - almost all of the time!

And it works everywhere - whether you're negotiating a price, making a reservation, in a courtroom or dealing with city hall! Even with operators on the phone!

Think she sounds cute on the phone? Have her meet you later - she'll think it was her idea! Want them to work for you, or buy your product or service? Have them do it and thank you for it!

And, no one will ever be able to escape your magnetic power when you always know

How To Tell If Someone Is Lying

Think about it right now: How many times will someone lie to you during the course of your life? And, what will it cost you?

Wouldn't it be better to KNOW when they are lying; to know HOW to detect, and correct, those who are lying or are about to lie to you?

Can you IMAGINE THE POWER YOU'LL HAVE knowing for sure, absolutely, whenever someone is lying to you? What would that be worth to you over the rest of your lifetime?

Of course, knowing this puts you at an Unfair Advantage Over Others, because

They Won't Be Able To Keep Any Secrets From You!

And, you could easily convince others of almost anything, true or untrue, when you lean the strategies, tactics and exact sciences of persuasion in this course.

But I know you won't do that, because your conscience won't permit it. That's the unique thing about a



true Warrior. You'll use your newly found strengths and secret knowledge for good, and to

Manifest An Overflow of Greatness

in your life and the lives of others.

There is a force inside you, a kind of "spiritual intuition" that discerns all things, good and bad. This intuition is very powerful, and magnetic. However, 99.9% of the population is programmed, BY DESIGN, to lose this intuition.

Here's what I mean: have you ever had someone lie to you or take advantage of you, and later you said to yourself "I KNEW that was gonna happen."

A little voice inside you told you that you were being lied to, but you rationalized it away and "allowed" it to happen, even though you knew better. I'm sure you know exactly what I'm talking about.

Have you ever been in a situation where you were told about something that was totally true and beneficial, but you rationalized it away, and later said

"I KNEW I should've done that!"

I think we all know what it feels like to miss out on something awesome that we didn't have to miss out on.

Don't let that happen again. Grab hold of this totally new course that no one else has, and you won't ever have to miss out on anything you want, ever again.

Normally, Andrew charges thousands of bucks for this info, to attend one of his seminars usually costs between \$1700 to \$2400 bucks!

But for good folks like you, SOF readers who know the real deal, you get the same info in the Mental Warfare Secrets Package for just \$147.00 bucks!

And there's no way to lose! Andrew has laid it out in such a simple and easy-to-understand manner that only a fool wouldn't get it!!!

The 3 Master Keys You MUST Know To Get Anything You Want

1. Human beings are made of energy, and your energy is ALWAYS radiating Magnetic Force - force that either "pushes away" what you want, or "attracts" what you want. And, there is NEVER a time when this Magnetic Force isn't working - even when you're sleeping!

2. Every Word You Say Has Power. If you don't understand Hypnotic Commands and Phrasing, everything you say "pushes away" what you want most of the time (this is the missing Key to Getting Everything You Want!) The same rule applies for your Body Language and Eye Contact!

3. Your Emotional Response Transfers Control To Your Opponent (or your Target). This is even true in a bloody streetfight. Knowing this is how the smaller guy Destroys the big, scary thugs. It's how the nerdy broke guy gets the pretty girl. It's how the disadvantaged and underprivileged GET RICH!

This Key is so Powerful, and so TOTAL and TRUE, that when you hear Andrew explain it and show you exactly how to use it, you'll cry tears of joy as if you've just been handed a check for 10 million bucks!

EASILY DESTROY YOUR ENEMIES!

Let's not fool around here. What we're talking about is very Powerful and Dangerous. Knowing exactly how to control other people without them even knowing it is outright unfair.

That's why it's very important that this program only falls into trustworthy hands. If you are a psycho on a power-trip, or a criminal, you are forbidden to buy this, period. Nut jobs need not apply.

Also, if you are into taking unfair advantage of other people, you are forbidden to have this material. It's just too damn dangerous in the wrong hands

You must be over 18 and by purchasing you agree to hold harmless and release Andrew Scott and Masters Group, Inc. from all liability.

Just Imagine What You Can Do Once You Get These Skills!

There are really only two types of people - Warriors and Peasants. The Peasantry walk around in a Hypnotic Fog of Programming, kind of like computer programs.

When you understand this programming, then just like a computer programmer you can "push people's buttons" and have them obey you, just like the computer obeys the programmer!

Does that make sense? It really is that simple, but it isn't easy unless you "know" the programming language.

Now, with Mental Warfare Secrets, you "get" the programming language, the buttons, everything you need to

Get Anyone To Do Anything You Want Anytime, Anywhere

This essential information gives you specific techniques and phrases in minute, step-by-step detail that you can do RIGHT NOW.

You can literally memorize these Secrets, go out and repeat them, and watch what happens! The hard part's already done.

But more importantly, it isn't just about controlling others. It's also about YOU. Here's exactly what I mean:

1. Mental Warfare Secrets is about YOU, EFFORTLESSLY GETTING WHATEVER YOU WANT!

2. This program shows you that you have only been using a tiny amount of your real ability. Andrew shows you how to access that part of you, a kind of Genie inside you, that is capable of discovering the life you've always dreamed of, INSTANTLY!

3. The techniques in this program will help you to make your dreams come true - not in some far off distant future - but "RIGHT NOW"

4. This DVD and 3-CD set, and the secrets in them are not available anywhere else! In fact, they are so potent, so effective, so INSTANTLY POWERFUL that in order to purchase them you must promise to NEVER share these secret tactics with anyone and to only use them for lawful purposes!

I WANT YOU TO HAVE THESE SECRETS - YOU KNOW YOU NEED THEM if you're going to WIN every battle in life.

Do you think that winning at life, making more money than your friends, slaughtering the competition and easily attracting everything you want like a giant magnet is easy?

I do! And I've seen Andrew prove it dozens of times! Now, you can do the same.

This is your wake-up call. If you are one of the few who know a good thing when they see it, who know the truth when they hear it, then YOU will become the Master of Yourself and Those Around You with Mental Warfare Secrets.

The Mental Warfare Secrets program will show you how to conquer yourself once and for all, and then conquer anyone else!



Andrew Scott

Once you get this knowledge, you'll finally be the way you want to be, the way you know you really should be!

99% of the population is comfortable in ignorance and mediocrity. If you want to continue in apathy and living inside of a little box, don't bother to call, we won't miss you. But for those of you who simply must win at life - who need to know "how" - this is for you.

You have the courage to step up. That's why after you've absorbed this new DVD & CD Set that no one has anywhere else, you'll walk into a room and immediately grab attention - and radiate power!

Watch How People Notice You've Been Transformed!

It'll be magnetizing, and it's all real. Period. I've put it on the line here. This is the best damn course on the planet. A DVD & CD set chock full of all of life's Mind Control & Mental Warfare Secrets - that's HUGE!

I can guess the only thing possibly holding you back at this point is the price of \$147.00 Are you cheap? If you don't invest in your future, in your skills, what kind of life will you end up with?

You know something like this doesn't come along every day. Most people don't have the balls to do anything, to try something different - even if they know it will work.

That's why the moment you "order now" you'll immediately be at a HUGE advantage over the rest of the population! All I'm asking is that you give it a try. Is that fair?

And, for the First 45 people to order, we're throwing in a Free Bonus worth thousands in it's own right, a CD called Mastery Keys To Unstoppable Confidence.

To get the Free Bonus, you must use this code when you order: "SOF1007"

Worldwide Shipping is FREE. So Call Now toll-free at 1-800-717-2675 and get it done. You can also order online at www.mentalwarfaresecrets.com

Sincerely, Tom Parks

Yes, Sir! I want the Confidential "Mental Warfare Secrets" DVD & CD Set. I'm one of the first 45 to order, so include the Free Bonus CD "Mastery Keys To Unstoppable Confidence" I'm over 18 and I Promise to keep this information confidential.

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SOF1007



A LONG, HOT SEASON IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

By John Weisman and David Halevy

Major General Amos Yadlin, a pilot with no appreciable intelligence training who currently serves as Israel's chief of AMAN (Military Intelligence), was recently quoted by the Jerusalem Post as saying that Syria, Iran, and Iran's surrogate Hezbollah, "are all working against Israel...[and] may force conflict as early as this summer." Well, the Middle East may indeed be on the cusp of a war, and Iran, Syria, and Hezbollah certainly do wish Israel harm, not to mention the fact that Iran and Syria aren't helping the situation by shipping huge quantities of weapons -- many of them Russian and Chinese made -- to their terrorist surrogates in Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, and Gaza. And Crazy Mahmoud -- that's Ahmadinejad, Iran's "student" turned president -- isn't doing anybody any favors by threatening to wipe Israel off the face of the earth with

Iran's soon-to-be (but not too soon) nuclear weapons.

But sophisticated Russian or Chinese missiles or Iranian nukes won't touch things off this year. If there is a war, it will start because the region's leaders -- the entire current batch in the Eastern Mediterranean -- are too dumb, too obstinate, and too myopic to avoid it.

From Istanbul to Alexandria, from Tel Aviv to Teheran, there is a vacuum of real leadership. There is no vision, no imagination; There are no plans. In nation after nation, people are led by political dwarfs, intellectual midgets, and brain-dead military incompetents.

On the Arab side, Syria and Jordan are run by weak sons who remain firmly in their fathers' shadows. Jordan has King Abdullah, whose stature as a leader doesn't come close to his father King Hussein's rare ability to lead, survive, and manipulate. Bashar Asad of Syria has not a molecule of his father Hafiz al-Asad's political acumen, charisma, and ruthlessness. In Egypt, a doddering Hosni Mubarak grooms his son and heir Gamal, knowing in his heart that the kid's a second-rater. Even in Saudi Arabia, one nostalgically wishes for the keen, hawk-eyed gaze of Feisal or Fahd -- you knew where you stood with them -- instead of the Janus-like visage of Abdullah.

Israel is no better -- and maybe, even worse. Ehud Olmert is a visionless politico whose main concern is not Israel's survival as much as his own. In Olmert, history repeats itself. He is the second Prime Minister without military leadership experience to invade Lebanon for the wrong reasons. Of course, at least Begin got to Beirut. Olmert and his generals couldn't even make it to the Litani.

The result has been a year of public political turmoil, national malaise, and fashionable (a la Oprah confessional) military self-flagellation. And it is this Israeli dysfunctional politico-military and societal chaos, so evident in the press and on TV news, that could become the trigger to conflict.

Why? Since 1956, and especially since 1967, Israel's Arab and Persian neighbors understood that the Jewish State's military capabilities and its American backing made it de facto the dominant power in the region. Israel was safe. Even when struck

first, it could turn the situation around because of the imaginative professionalism of its political and military leaders and more important, the passion and devotion of its fighting ranks.

Today, in the eyes of Israel's enemies, that domination has virtually evaporated. Hezbollah saw to that last summer. Lebanon was not Israel's Vietnam but its Mogadishu -- its *Black Hawk Down*. The hardliners in Damascus and Tehran, the crazies in their sleeper cells, and the Jihadists in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Gaza all watch CNN, Al Jazeera, and FOX. They surf the Internet and text message one another. They know what's happening. And these days, they are all whispering much the same thing: We're beating America back in Iraq and Afghanistan; now it's the Jews' turn; It is our moment to get rid of them once and for all.

Thus, if soon the Middle East disappears into its eighth round of violence and bloodshed since 1948, the debacle will not be the fault only of the fanatics -- Islamists who never bothered to read the Prophet's writings, and West Bank settlers who are driven by visions of Messianic Biblical glory and supported by American evangelicals who wish for Armageddon -- but the inability of leaders in Cairo, Damascus, Tehran, Ramallah, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Washington and now London (where Britain's former prime minister Tony Blair has inherited the Ralph Bunche role of top Mideast negotiator cum punching bag) to step back, take a deep breath, and think outside the box.

War, logic tells us, will solve nothing. It will only reveal the politicians leading their nations into conflagration as vacuous egomaniacs. But of course, we're talking about the Middle East. And as the old story about the frog and the scorpion reminds us, in the Middle East, logic has nothing to do with life -- or war.

JOHN WEISMAN, *SOF's* roving contributing editor, has spent more than three decades covering the Middle East.

DAVID HALEVY, a former *TIME* Magazine correspondent, has close ties to Israel's military and intelligence community.

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Gitmo -- Our Oldest and Base Abroad



Columbus and Castro, Heroes and Hostages, Pirates and Terrorists

Bachelor Officers Quarters 90—Playhouse 90

During the 1956-58 civil war in Cuba, the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay was right on the border of the rebel guerrilla strongholds in the Sierra Maestra and the Sierra de Cristal. Correspondents coming to the base stayed in an officers' BOQ (bachelor officers quarters) which they dubbed "BOQ 90," named after a popular TV series, "Playhouse 90."

Gitmo -- as it was and is called -- was indeed a stage more than a naval base. Today there are hundreds of supposed terrorists stockaded there. Each has a story to tell. But the base itself has stories of its own, going back more than 100 years.

The 23 square miles of Guantánamo Bay are on Cuba's southernmost coast. Europeans first saw the bay when Christopher Columbus entered it on his second voyage. He spent the night of 30 April 1494 in the bay, apparently having landed at what is now Fisherman's Point. He was looking for gold. He didn't find any. He departed the next day. Columbus named the bay "Puerto Grande."

Eventually Spain took over Cuba, and with it Guantánamo Bay.

Pirate Stronghold

In the days of the Spanish Main -- colonial times -- Guantánamo Bay was occasionally a pirate stronghold. Pirates with names such as Naum, Sores and Rosillo preyed on shipping passing through the Windward Passage. Legend has it that a famous and bloodthirsty pirate named Rosario, whose home port was New Orleans, was chased into the bay and took refuge some distance up the Guantánamo River.

At other times Guantánamo Bay was a haven for commercial ships fleeing hurricanes.

The year 1741 found the British and Spanish engaged in one of their frequent wars. Guantánamo Bay figured briefly but prominently in the conflict. In March 1741 Vice Admiral Edward Vernon, commanding the British West Indies Squadron, having been heavily reinforced with ships and transporting 15,000 troops, undertook an attack on Cartagena (Colombia). The attack was

a failure because operations were poorly handled and a large number of the troops fell victim to tropical diseases.

The British decided to continue the war in other Spanish colonies. Santiago de Cuba was selected as the next objective. LCdr. (later Admiral) Forrest Sherman, U.S. Navy, wrote of this in an article printed in the "U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings" (Vol. 57, No. 4). Quoting from the article: "Vernon sailed from Port Royal (Jamaica) on 1 July in his flagship Boyne, eighty guns, with eight ships of the line, one intermediate ship, eight frigates, and some forty transports, carrying 3,400 troops under [Lt. Gen. Thomas] Wentworth.... Among the troops was the remnant of the American Regiment in which served Lawrence Washington, who later named his estate Mount Vernon after his Commander."

The fleet arrived at Guantánamo Bay on 18 July 1741 after the bay was reconnoitered and found undefended. Later, a council of war troops were disembarked under the plan to attack Santiago from the east (a distance of about 50 miles). The troops would march overland. Wentworth reached Santa

Most Curious



In rebel territory, Mallin (left with cap) and other news-men talk with hostage Navy Airman Tom Mosness (second from right). At left is comandante Efigenio Ameijeiras, Raul Castro's second in command who became chief of police after the civil war.

by Jay Mallin

Catalina de Guantánamo (now Guantánamo City) without encountering resistance, but here he went into camp and bogged down. The delay was fatal to the plan. His farthest advance was to a point some 16 miles from Santiago. By the end of September the small army was riddled by sickness and disease. All thought of offensive operations ceased.

The Spanish American War

Over a century and a half later, during the Spanish-Cuban-American War, Maj. Gen. William Shafter, U.S. ground commander, confronted the same kind of operation. After studying Wentworth's experiences, he decided on a rapid march and bold attack on Santiago, before disease could weaken his forces. He was successful.

War broke out between the United States and Spain in April 1898. The first action in the Guantánamo area was an attempt on 19 May by a small U.S. Navy vessel, the St. Louis, to cut a cable that ran through the bay and connected Cuba with Haiti and the world. The vessel was driven back by Spanish artillery on the shore. A successful foray was made 6 June with the

arrival of the cruiser Marblehead. This provided heavy covering fire for the St. Louis, which was now able to do the job.

The U.S. commanders decided to establish a base on the bay. A battalion of marines who had been awaiting orders in Key West was ordered to the fleet blockading the southern Cuban coast. The site selected for a marine encampment was a flat ridge on top of a hill above a village on Fisherman's Point.

The marines arrived at the fleet on 10 June and four of six companies (some 600 men) were immediately disembarked and landed. The Spanish had fled in such a hurry that they left behind money, clothing, jewelry and weapons. To avoid the possibility of yellow fever, the Marines burned rude huts and the remains of a blockhouse.

Cuban "Mambises" Ally With U.S. Marines

Their first night was a restless one. Voices were heard and lights seen in the thickets around the camp, but nothing happened. The next day the remaining two companies came ashore.

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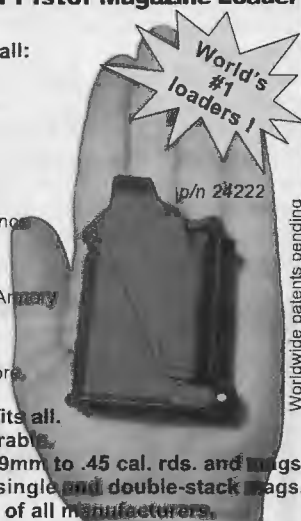
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The American forces had maintained liaison with the Cuban "mambises" who were fighting for the independence of their country. A Cuban colonel joined the marines to provide them with intelligence assistance. The colonel reported that the main Spanish force in the area had its headquarters two miles southeast of Fishermen's Point in the village of Cuzco.

A skirmish took place on the perimeter of the camp. Two marines on outpost duty were killed. They were the first American casualties of the conflict. The marines set out in pursuit of the enemy, but, apart from a few shots, the effort was fruitless. The marines abandoned the pursuit.

That night, however, the Spanish launched an attack. The camp was riddled with bullets. A medic and a sergeant were killed. The following day the marines were reinforced by 50 "mambises." Familiar with the area and Spanish tactics, they deployed in pairs in front of the camp, burning the undergrowth which had provided the Spanish troops with cover. The Marblehead steamed along the coast and bombarded the area of the Spanish headquarters.

Despite all this, the Spanish were able to resume attacking at dusk. Two more marines were killed in night-long combat. The marines were fatigued. By the evening of 13 June they had not slept for some 100 hours. There could be no reinforcements: Army troops had not yet left the States. The Spanish numbered

about 800 men: 500 regulars and the rest guerrillas.

The U.S. Flag Flies Over Guantánamo

The marine commanders decided to counterattack. Two companies of marines, together with 50 Cubans, set out along the cliffs by the sea. A smaller marine force advanced through an inland valley. A Navy ship supported the operation.

Because of the rough terrain it took close to three hours for the U.S. forces to reach hills almost encircling Cuzco. A race ensued between the opposing forces for the peak of one hill, and there was heavy firing. The U.S.-Cuban troops won.

The Spanish were well concealed by trees but the firing by the marines drove them from cover. The Spanish began a slow retreat. The Navy ship the Dolphin, shelled the enemy, hastening their retreat. By mid-afternoon the battle was over.

Most of the enemy had escaped but a lieutenant and 17 enlisted men were captured, along with weapons. The enemy had lost 58 men killed and 150 wounded. Two Cubans were killed and two marines wounded. Guantánamo Bay was now under the American flag, and it would remain so from then on. Cuba became an independent nation on 20 May 1901.

The island would become a playground for American tourists and a land of opportunity for American businessmen. But Cuba

would always be a subject of concern for the United States. Over the years there would be several military interventions, the largest of them, in 1961, a total failure.

Gitmo-1st U.S. Base Abroad

A lease agreement for the base was signed by Cuban President Estrada Palma on 16 February 1903 and by President Theodore Roosevelt seven days later. With this accord Cuba leased to the United States approximately 45 square miles of land and water "to do any and all things necessary to fit the premises for use as coaling or naval stations, and for no other purpose." (Not to be used as a prison stockade?) Guantánamo was the first U.S. military base in a foreign country. The port of Bahia Honda, in the western part of the island, was included in the agreement but was later abandoned by the U.S. For the lease U.S. would pay \$2,000 in gold coins each year. The agreement set no termination date -- a matter that would be highly important in the later time of Fidel Castro. Castro would rail against the U.S. control of the bay and in protest, after receiving one payment, has since refused to accept any further funds from the U.S.

The future naval base was formally turned over to the United States in a

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by Mark Evans DM

Picture this... You are living a life with no worries. It's as if everything you touch turns to gold almost effortlessly. All the while, you are still doing the things that you have been wanting to do...the things that everyone else said was impossible.

Hello Friend,
My name is Mark Evans DM, and they all laughed at me when I told them I was going to buy millions of dollars worth of Real Estate from the comfort of my own home and without ever using my own cash or credit.

Well, they're not laughing at me anymore, I promise you. Today, as you read this, I have been traveling (first class!) all across the Good ol' US of A for the last 17 months and enjoying every second of the way.

I have found a way to do the things that everybody else told me would be impossible for me to achieve.

Life is Good

I must admit that I did not think that life could ever be this good. But, as I travel all across the country, I run across folks who have that certain "thing" in their eyes that makes me do what I'm about to do. I want to share this with you today. And, believe me, when I tell you what it is, you will quickly realize how you too can buy millions of dollars of Real Estate from home.

You see, I have created this system that has allowed me to do deals from anywhere in the world. So, after countless hours on my part of putting this all together in an easy to follow format, I have now broken it down into 7 steps for you. Anybody that is reading this could implement these simple steps and buy millions of dollars worth of Real Estate too!

You see, I think that we all deserve a "fair shot at the title". This is what I told my fiancé, and that is why I want you to get your Free copy of the CD entitled, "7 Secrets To Buying & Selling Real Estate From Home" in your hands today.

Imagine being able to buy that amazing home that you have been dreaming of for years now. And what about that sports car that purrs down the road with each shift? It's as if you have arrived and the world is your oyster...

Or, what if you just wanted to lay around all day knowing that all your bills are already covered, and you can get out of bed at what ever time of day you want...and NOT because you have to.

My friend, you have arrived!

I don't think you're reading this by accident because the scene that I just described is how myself and my students live our lives...and you can too.

Before I get ahead of myself, I want to zap the 4 biggest myths that surround Real Estate Investing.

Myth #1: You have to have cash to be a Real

Estate investor

Myth Busted: Those that I have taught have controlled millions of dollars worth of Real Estate without ever putting a dime of their own cash into it. I explain how you can do the same thing on track #4

Myth #2: You have to have perfect credit to be a Real Estate investor

Myth Busted: My students never use their own credit - and neither will you, if you're smart! Actually, on track #5, I explain to you, in full detail, how you can be standing on the courthouse steps filing for bankruptcy and still be able to lock down millions of dollars worth of Real Estate deals

Myth #3: I need to have a license to be a Real Estate investor

Myth Busted: After listening to track #6 where I expose the truth to you about this myth, you will quickly realize that only people who are not "in the know" still think this way

Myth #4: I need to have a lot of experience to be a Real Estate investor

Myth Busted: What you need to have is specialized knowledge... which I will give to you on this Free CD... THIS is what will allow you to make big money in Real Estate - on demand!

Profit Quickly

Well, as you can see, not only do I pretty much spoon-feed you the hard-hitting facts about getting set up for profiting quickly, but I will go one step further and expose you to all of my resources that I use for Free...these are the tools and systems that I use every day to rake in huge profits while I sleep.

And you can use these same tools and systems too! I will expose you to 4 tools that I use, such as:

1. The \$29 piece of software that does all my follow up for me
2. The Free marketing resource I use that makes me a boatload of money
3. Let me tell you how you will never talk to anybody unless you're giving them wiring instructions to send you money (My Favorite!)
4. The exact site that asks sellers all of the questions you need to know so you know how much cash you're going to make - because, while you're sleeping, it's working for you

Now, don't take my word for how powerful these simple strategies are...

See what others have to say:

"I went from playing professional football to having to pawn everything I had and being homeless. Your systems, though, changed it all around for me, and now I'm back in the game and I can see that Real Estate is going to be my path to financial freedom. I can't thank you enough!

Leron King, Huntington, WV

"Mark, I truly can't thank you enough! I'm a stay-home mom with three kids who's now on her way to financial freedom. It is so clear to me that this is the work I was always meant to do, and you have made it possible for me to make this leap. I've seen many other books and products out there, but yours is so easy to follow. I didn't have any extra money, and my credit was not that great, yet your personal encouragement and program eliminated the fears that I had about getting started.

Christine Rupert, Madison WI

Mark makes sense of using all of your resources to create many income streams. His hard-hitting and cutting-edge approach always makes the "light bulb come on" when you listen to him speak. He has personally helped me overcome many challenges in my Real Estate career.

Maynette Boykin, Hayward, CA

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ceremony aboard the USS *Kearsage* in Guantánamo Bay on 10 December 1903. In the years that followed, the base was built up. Living quarters, reservoirs, magazines, a rifle range, supply storehouses and two little forts were constructed. A small coaling facility was built (eventually to be replaced by petroleum works when the Navy turned to oil as its fuel). An air station was established and a landing strip constructed.

In 1906 the U.S. intervened militarily in Cuba to protect Americans and restore order during a revolutionary period. It was the first of several interventions during the early decades of the century. Guantánamo station served as a staging area for marines moving into Cuba, on one occasion occupying Santiago. There were also U.S. interventions in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

In 1910 the Atlantic Fleet held its first concentration at the bay, and over the years the bay would continue to be a base for naval maneuvers. About every three years vessels from the Pacific Fleet maneuvered jointly with the Atlantic ships. In 1913 the base was visited for the first time by submarines. The flotilla commander was Lt. Chester Nimitz, who during World War II, as a fleet admiral, commanded the victorious Pacific Fleet.

The Guantánamo station was not prepared for World War I, its participation largely limited to coaling vessels not yet using oil. Appropriations were granted to increase facilities for oil and water storage, as well for new buildings, but all these were not completed until just before the end of the war.

Gitmo flows with Rum, Women and Cigars

Gitmo went dry when Prohibition became law in the States. While Coast Guard vessels chased rumrunners around the Caribbean, the boys of Gitmo had an oasis of their own. Base personnel and sailors and marines on leave from visiting ships could visit Caimanera and other nearby towns. These had rum, cigars and gambling and other lusty pursuits. The marines and seamen also found time to tend to their naval duties: sailing ships, firing guns, holding maneuvers. (Navy recruiting poster?: Join the Navy and enjoy great rum and fine cigars.)

Unlike in WW I, Gitmo came into its own in WW II, playing a major regional role. The U.S. had a number of bases in the Caribbean area; Gitmo was the most important of these. With war clouds gathering over Europe, the U.S. looked to its own defenses. President Franklin

Roosevelt visited Gitmo on 20 February 1939, and again on 4 December 1940. Congress appropriated funds and the facilities at the base were improved.

The Caribbean was infested with German U-boats. In February 1942 enemy subs sank 18 ships totaling 93,443 tons. During the year 1942 257 ships were sunk, and only three enemy submarines were destroyed. But by the end of the year the Allies had greatly improved their anti-sub capabilities, including the use of protective convoys. Only 22 vessels were sunk in 1943.

Crossroads of the Caribbean

Convoys in the Caribbean were routed to Guantánamo, where they were reformed with other vessels heading toward the same destinations. The base became known as the "Crossroads of the Caribbean." Shipping through



During the hostage crisis, Mallin talks with Gitmo Base's pr official, Lt. Ralph Blanchard. Looking on are Larry Allen of AP (center) and Peter Kihss of The NYT.

Gitmo was second only to that of New York in number of ships and frequency of convoy movements. Warships and war planes based at Gitmo patrolled the seas. Gitmo also served as an excellent training area for face craft because of fine conditions for echolocation ranging.

Seven years after the end of the war, former dictator and wartime president Fulgencio Batista returned to power through an almost bloodless coup. Leaves at Gitmo were temporarily cancelled, a Cuban Navy officer asked for and was given asylum. Otherwise the base was not affected. Batista, however, had set in motion a series of events that no one could have foreseen....

On 26 July 1953 a former student activist

named Fidel Castro Ruz led a band in attacking Moncada Fortress in Santiago. The assault was repelled, Castro and his brother Raúl were captured, tried and imprisoned. Later they were released by Batista and went into exile in Mexico. Castro began plotting and preparing anew.

The Legendary Fidel Castro and Che Guevara

Civil war began in Cuba early in December 1956 when Castro and 81 other expeditionaries landed on the southeastern coast of Cuba, some 140 miles across the island from Guantánamo. Batista's forces decimated the rebels, but a group of 15, including Castro, his brother Raúl and the Argentinean Ernesto Guevara, made it into the Sierra Maestra Mountains. Supported by a powerful clandestine movement in nearby Santiago, the rebels waged a successful guerrilla campaign. The Guantánamo naval station was not involved in the conflict, other than in a peripheral manner. The guerrillas on occasion left their sick and wounded outside the main gate to be picked up and treated by the Americans. This writer saw comandante Manuel Piñero, in camo, come out of the base PX. I figured that rebel officers were being given shopping privileges in return for intelligence on combat in the hills. Piñero was one of Raúl's top aides. Later he would become the legendary chief of Castro's intel services.

Raúl Castro, in March 1958, led about 100 guerrillas from the Sierra Maestra to the Sierra de Cristal in easternmost Cuba, where he established a second front in the war against Batista. On 22 June 1958 he issued "Military Order No. 30," which ordered "the detention of all North American citizens."

The purpose was to show the Americans the results of bombing of the rebel area by government planes. The rebels claimed that the United States was still providing arms to Batista despite an embargo on all weapons sales. To prove their point the rebels made available a photograph of rocket heads being loaded on a Cuban aircraft at the Guantánamo base. The photo had been obtained by the rudimentary rebel intel service operating on the base. Washington explained that the rocket heads were replacements for inert ones provided previously.

Raúl Castro's guerrillas kidnapped two Canadian and 18 American civilians (plus a Cuban bus conductor). They also seized nine U.S. marines and 21 U.S. sailors, most of whom had been aboard a bus returning them to the base after leave in Guantánamo City.

Continued on page 34

Brave New War continued

money and the gear. I'd target each team to a specific guerrilla entity. Al Qaeda is now too diffuse to even address, but most groups won't be. So, there are 75 of them in Iraq. We put a team on each of them, and the understanding is that the team will not be micromanaged. There is no B team over three or four As. There is no C team over three or four Bs.

The company has a logistics set up, a personnel set up, possibly an intel set up, but if there is an operational staff its function is advisory, not supervisory. There is one supervisor, the guy who owns the outfit, and he is smart enough to hire guys who know what they are doing and leave them alone.

The team can operate together, in subgroups, or as individuals. They have infinite flexibility. They either succeed or they fail.

They stonewall the press, period.

J.R.: This is taking me a little further along in my thinking than what I wrote in the book.

I like that solution. Small and relatively autonomous civilian teams with diverse skill sets and extensive experience, the object being to eliminate the target group as a threat.

Also, I suspect there would have to be some geographic specificity and lots of sharing of data so

there aren't any blue on blue issues. Geographical specificity would also allow measurement of success (through a reduction of violence and improvement in economic indicators) as opposed to body counts (prone to inflation). Improvement in services (particularly in urban environments) would also need to become a focus to slow group formation, so local recruitment would be key at some point.

Software

In terms of coordination, it would be necessary to slap together a rapidly evolving software platform to handle data/information/knowledge sharing. Probably could be built in six months. Each team would generate lots of innovation and this would be one of the better ways to share it.

It would also be important to get

The military contracting system doesn't appear even close to putting a system together to manage this fast moving marketplace correctly. This is a huge problem and the answers are difficult to discern...

the generic U.S. Army out of the patrol business and back on the bases, focused on critical infrastructure pro-

tection, or border security so they don't get in the way of these fluid ops.

SOF: I definitely like everything you've said here. I should have mentioned the software. The only reason the guy in charge should not be a dictator is that everybody is in touch with everybody and the team is likely to move forward more by consensus than command.

It's already that way on good teams. In 1964 I commanded a good team at Kham Duc, and in the 3 1/2 months I survived before being wounded I don't think I gave anybody anything that could be construed as an order. We just talked over how we wanted things to go over meals, and that's how it went. My job, as commander, was to set the tone and unravel snafus. With the internet on your side you can do that over a much wider geographical area.

Thanks very much for doing this. I hope it helps your sales, and that your book has the impact it should.

This is a Brave New War (World) indeed, the Age of the Merc. Please, Brer Bear, don't throw me in the briar patch. So, as they say, don't be a stranger.

J.R.: It's been entirely my pleasure.

Jim Morris is a longtime SOF correspondent and former Special Forces officer. His SOF memoir *The Devil's Secret Name*, is in print from St. Martin's, and his novel, *Above and Beyond*, is in print from realwarstories.com.



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020110-N-6967M-501 Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Jan. 10, 2002 -- Lance Cpl. Robert Devlin, from 2nd Military Police battalion 2nd Force Service Support Group, displays restraints used for transporting detainees to Camp X-Ray. Camp X-Ray will be one of the holding facilities for Taliban and Al Qaida detainees. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Shane T. McCoy. (RELEASED)

The Adventure of Jay Mallin and the Rebel Underground

Upon hearing what had happened, I flew to Santiago and then went by road to the naval base. I was joined by a "Life" reporter/photographer team. With the help of the base's naval intelligence officer, LCdr. Phin Newton, I made contact with the rebel intel service, a Cuban attendant at the base hospital. He instructed me how to get off the base and link up with the rebel underground. A problem was that the base was encircled by a high barbed-wire fence and the perimeter was patrolled by marines. Cuban workers were daily brought in from Guantánamo City and then bused back late in the afternoon. With the "Life" team (reporter Lee Hall and photographer George Skadding), I got in line with the Cubans; we carried no baggage. Everyone boarding was frisked by marines, but the marines took no notice of us. We were workers going home. My contact also boarded, but I did not speak with him.

In Guantánamo City our contact left the bus, leaving a small piece of paper giving us directions. In the hours that followed we went to one house, were fed; went to another house, in a slum, were fed again. Two of us went to a third house to sleep (in the same bed). The next morning underground figures showed up, questioned us, disappeared.

Finally a car arrived and we piled in. In the vehicle were the driver and two young women related to men in the hills. Later we transferred to a Jeep, and then we were moving up into the mountains on rain-soaked roads. Often the Jeep was accompanied by another. At times

the road was so steep everyone got out but the driver. This was aimed at saving precious guerrilla manpower: if anything happened to the Jeep, only one man would be lost.

Long past midnight of our second day with the rebels we finally came to a house where some Americans were being held. We interviewed a sailor. Later we went to another house where there was another hostage. Suspicious of us, the hostage told the guerrillas we must be Batista agents; no correspondents could have made it through the U.S. Navy and Batista lines.

The next day we were taken to the town of Calabazas. Eight of the hostages were here. We were allowed to interview and photograph them freely. We got our story and photos. We journalists decided that I would leave immediately, taking the film with me and with the story in my head. The "Life" team would remain behind for additional coverage.

I was provided with a Jeep and driver. The Jeep broke down; we eventually found another. We traveled through the night, always dangerous in a war zone. The driver decided it would be unwise to go into Guantánamo City in a rebel Jeep. We walked in, tried unsuccessfully to contact members of the underground. On the edge of town we entered a "bodega" (store with bar), seeking a phone. It had none. But it did have several young soldiers, eyeing us. We left hurriedly.

TAXI—I Need to Find the War

As we briskly walked away, we were hailed. The soldiers had followed us; they questioned us on the road. I pretended not to understand; I kept repeating that I was an American looking for a taxi. It would have been ludicrous if not so dangerous. I showed the soldiers a green base pass. They decided we were not worth troubling about. They went back to the store.

Eventually we found a member of the underground who could help, a black doctor. The driver, his work done, left me. The doctor drove me to the base, where the marines on guard questioned me. I requested them to call Newton; they did, and he fetched me.

After holding them for several weeks, Castro released his hostages. He had achieved his goals: stopped, at least

temporarily, the bombing of the guerrilla zone, and demonstrated to the world how securely the rebels now controlled territory.

The Cuban civil war ended with the rebels victorious and Batista fleeing just after midnight of 31 December 1958. Soon a cold war developed between the Castro-led regime and the U.S., a conflict which continues to this day. The conflict was reflected at Guantánamo Bay, where the situation was rocky -- literally. Cuban soldiers threw rocks at the marines guarding the border. Cuban workers were searched when they came off the base, and they were required to exchange dollars they earned for Cuban pesos worth much less than the dollars. A ferry which brought workers from Caimanera and other towns was halted, forcing the workers to use more roundabout ways of getting to the base. A zigzag barbed wire fence was built to prevent unauthorized Cubans from fleeing to the base.

The Cuban border guards lit powerful searchlights and trained them every night on the base's main gate. The base commander, Rear Adm. John Bulkeley, erected a large marine sign behind the gate, and the searchlights now illuminated this. The Cubans turned off the lights. (Bulkeley commanded PT Squadron 3 during the Japanese invasion of the Philippines during WW II. The squadron fought hard and well and ferried Lt. Gen. [and Philippine field marshal] Douglas MacArthur to safety. Bulkeley won the Congressional Medal of Honor.)

"Big" Bulkeley and his "Big Iron"

Castro was deeply irked at having an American flag flying over Cuban soil. He was, however, not about to go to war to seize the bay. Water for the base was pumped in from Cuba, and the U.S. paid for this. On 6 February 1964 Castro charged that the base was using more than the U.S. paid for. He cut off the water supply (thus forfeiting \$14,000 in monthly payments). (The base had already become self-sufficient in electricity generation.) Fearing a Cuban attack, Bulkeley stood watch on a hill 12 to 18 hours daily. He wore battle greens and a .357 Colt magnum pistol -- his "Big Iron." The hill is now named in his honor.

When the Cuban government charged that the base was stealing water, Bulkeley had pipes cut that formerly brought in water and demonstrated that they were dry. He then had the pipes sealed shut.

During the water crisis stored water was used. Homes on the base were limited to one hour's supply per day. All non-essential uses, even laundry, were prohibited. The base's seven swimming pools were closed (horrors!). Water was tanked in from the U.S. and a desalination plant was hurriedly built. It provided 3,000,000 gallons of water daily. Certain limitations on water use remained in effect, but in general the base became self-sufficient in water, too, and has been ever since.

From Refugee Haven To Terror Stockade.

At various times in the 90s Gitmo became a stockade for Haitian and Cuban refugees who had fled their countries. in exoduses. Some of the haitians made it to Gitmo on their own. Others and the Cubans were picked up at sea by the U.S. Coast Guard and transported to the base. At one point there were approximately 45,000 refugees on the base. Because the base could hardly handle so many people, military personnel families were evacuated.

On 11 January 2002 a new type of visitor -- or resident, if you will -- arrived at the base. After the 9/11 terror attacks, the Central Intelligence Agency and other U.S. intel organizations determined that it was necessary to place captured and arrested foreign terror suspects in places where they could be interrogated without benefit of protection from the U.S. Constitution and laws. Secret prisons were opened in Europe, and Gitmo also became a holding area. Eventually hundreds of suspects would be brought here.

As word of mistreatment of prisoners and their being deprived of any legal defenses leaked out, Gitmo became a symbol of alleged U.S. oppression, tarnishing the historical image of the U.S. as a defender of human rights. The issue reached the U.S. Supreme Court, which on 28 June 2004 ruled that the detainees

be permitted to take their cases to federal courts. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell has said (2007), "...[W]e have shaken the belief that the world had in America's justice system by keeping a place like Guantánamo open..."

Castro has not protested the use of Gitmo as a stockade. But it has served a propaganda purpose for him. Asked in a TV interview about civil rights violations in Cuba, Ricardo Alarcón, president of the National Assembly, agreed that there were such violations "on Cuban soil" -- at Guantánamo under American control.

The border between Guantánamo base and the rest of Cuba is now calm. Cuba is in a period of transition; this is the post-Fidel period. Later will come the post-Raúl era. Guantánamo offers a unique opportunity. Here American and Cuban soldiers stand face to face. Greater contacts could easily be arranged. On at least one occasion the Gitmo base commander invited the Cuban border guard commander to be a guest at a base ceremony.

Throughout Cuba's history the military have often played a dominant role in the governance of the country. This will

020110-N-3235P-503 Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Jan. 10, 2002 -- Marine security teams take up positions during a rehearsal for handling incoming detainees at Camp X-Ray, one of the holding facilities for Taliban and Al Qaida detainees. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Michael W. Pendergrass (RELEASED)



be true whatever the future holds for the island nation. Clearly to the advantage of the United States would be to develop and maintain contact with the Cuban military. During a visit to Cuba, this writer was asked to deliver a message: Tell the U.S. military the Cuban military would like to have contact with them. I delivered the message to the Pentagon. As far as I know there was no response.

With changes under way in Cuba, the need for establishing channels with the Cuban military is ever more urgent and important. Guantánamo offers a good starting point.

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Port of entry closed. One of 26 "ratholes" in 4 miles closed by private citizens. This forced coyotes and groups to climb over fence, or use a vastly smaller number of more easily observed crossing points. Cost: \$5 per hole in materials.

On a hill a couple hundred meters south, in a village where the average income is probably a few hundred dollars a year, sits a house with 20' concrete wall, a 30' tall observation tower, a mansion, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, and a huge garage and warehouse. It's a drug lord mansion right out of Hollywood movies. One night in 2005 when the Minutemen were there observing, thus preventing easy dope smuggling, the cartels turned to fighting themselves, with the mansion exchanging full-auto .50 caliber MG tracer fire with people below on the outside with full-auto AKs. This was all within sight of the U.S.A., and within slingshot range of the actual border. But apparently the American media and U.S. law enforcement in the area (let alone in Mexico, where military weapons are totally forbidden), isn't much interested.

When drug load vehicles cross, the smugglers beef up the bumpers for ramming blockades and gates, and pump the tires full of silicone to defeat spike strips. Then they drive lights-out at night in the wrong direction on the interstate to evade pursuits. Locals have been killed in such head-on crashes, leading BP and other law enforcement agencies to break off all pursuits. Ranchers and property owners from San Diego to Brownsville have seen the incidents, leading to formation of all manner of local attempts, like Ranch Rescue, etc. to get a handle on things -- and a notable failure of the federal government to pay attention. The situation got so bad that in 2005, events coalesced, and the Minutemen appeared nationally.

For drawing attention to the issue, the Minutemen were fantastic. Crossings in some areas slowed to a standstill. But the coyotes thought that the Minutemen were a bunch of wild-west vigilantes ready to shoot anyone

federal agencies aren't helping either. Minuteman-type watches have the BP hierarchy pulling scarce field agents from other areas to "protect" the Minutemen, and do a better



Change of shift. Three times a day, Border Patrol leaves their posts for 30 minutes to two hours, as coyotes watch and wait with groups and drugs on Mexican side.

job of actually watching the border. Crossings thus drop, and everyone declares victory, and goes home. But the crossings resume as usual as soon as the agents leave, and the areas they were pulled from get hammered while they're gone.

Not that things appear to be well-planned in the first place. At the Campo Station in Southern California, there are typically 100+ Border Patrol vehicles sitting in the parking lot, including some of the high-tech scope trucks. Border Patrol higher-ups have a baker's dozen of excuses for this, from lack of

agents, to vehicles falling apart, to the dog eating their homework. And people continue to cross in hordes as they sputter excuses. Most recently, in Southern California the Border Patrol pulled almost all their agents off the border! They put them in Vehicle Checkpoints (VCPs) miles north of their border. There, one or two agents wave cars through, and randomly search the occasional truck. The coyote's helpers wait and watch, and when the checkpoints are closed (they're never open non-stop) the loads of illegal aliens, drugs, and whatever else cross in droves.

BP and the White House then point out that, "apprehensions are down." Of course, by simply eliminating the Border Patrol, apprehensions would to zero, and the White House could then have proof that the problem was solved -- as long as no one looked outside the local home improvement center every morning, or tried to get care at the local ER.

The

agents, to vehicles falling apart, to the dog eating their homework. And people continue to cross in hordes as they sputter excuses.

Fences Work

The team in San Diego County wanted to do something that would work. So they started observing their area. Regularly, around the clock. They found property owners who were tired of having dogs killed, fences cut, cattle wandering off, and houses burglarized, vandalized, and trashed.

They started dragging the roads, which wipes out old footprint sign. Then they "cut sign" -- observing for recent tracks -- on the private roads, taught the owners how to do so as well, and let the local BP agents know they were dragging the roads. (The BP is either prevented from doing effective drags due to the concerns of environmentalists, or faulty and broken equipment, in most cases.) This allowed the agents to start looking for crossing sign on the private lands they pass through, or patrol on with permission.

By putting two marks on the road the length of an average pace, and counting footprints, over a year, local owners had determined their lands

Dozens of footprints from hundreds of crossers every night are typical, even during rainstorms, as seen by all these muddy boot prints on border road. Photo: U.S. Evolutions





Fences work. Part of group caught when they ran out of energy and options after being stopped by privately constructed fencing in background. Note blanket "booties," which are very effective in thwarting the main technology used to spot sign left by crossings -- BP agents' eyeballs.

were seeing hundreds of thousands of crossers a year: 50,000 just on one small property alone!

Now that the crossing points and routes were well known, fencing was improved. The group at the beginning of this article has put up nearly 2 miles of fencing in the last year, mostly from salvaged scrap -- more than what the entire federal government has constructed on the actual border in the same time span. But this fence

is patrolled, inspected, and regularly maintained. It's begun funneling groups into fewer areas, making it easier to watch and apprehend crossers, getting their dope loads seized, and the illegals apprehended. But the illegals were still coming through the border fence.

So the group started finding the "ratholes" under the border fence. Of course, there are entire sections where there isn't a border fence, but leaving human ports of entry under a 6-10-foot-tall vehicle barrier is stupid. So they would pound 4" rebar into the holes, and weld the tops to the PSP, then wire chain-link fencing across the hole, and pour concrete in the hole. They closed 26 "ports of entry" in two weeks. This also

not only stops traffic north, but return trips south by the coyotes after they've dropped their load at a pickup point. In one case, a guide returned to the border fence line to find all his easy exits south gone overnight. He was walking along 3 miles of fence with no way back when a BP jeep spotted him. With nowhere to run, he sat down and gave up.

Brush along the roads and fencelines was cleared, both to reduce fire danger (many of the fires are set by illegals either while cooking in the wilderness, or as a distraction to permit crossing) and to enhance visibility and observation of the border strip. New holes were patched faster than they could be used, and fencing was added daily and weekly.

Next Issue: Ineffectual Officials in the north, corrupt officials in the south exacerbate the problem. *Soldier of Fortune* publisher Robert K. Brown rides the border and files a first-hand report.

The author, a former Marine NCO, has been actively involved helping ranchers secure their borderline properties for nearly three years.

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Mike Nischalke and a male Gemsbok he just harvested with a left-hand Dakota Arms Model 76 in .330 Dakota.

Third in this trilogy, BAMBOO BATTLEGROUNDS, about al-Qaida operating in the Pacific Rim and trying to smuggle a massive floating bomb into the Port of Los Angeles, will be out this fall.

New Top Kick at Guns & Ammo

Guns & Ammo has a new editor at the helm, whose efforts will be seen starting in that magazine's September issue. Richard Venola was brought over after considerable success working with the magazine's specialty annuals, such as *Combat Arms* and *Tactical Guns & Gear*. A former Marine Mustang, the California native served a hitch after high school,

emerging as an 0351 sergeant. Following fleet service in 3/4, his tour included embassy duty in Kabul and Tel Aviv.

Attending college on the GI bill, Venola spent the fall semester of 1981 as a student journalist with the Mujaheddin of Gulbaddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami in several eastern provinces of Afghanistan.

Promoted to staff sergeant as a Redeye section leader with 4th FAAD Battery, he entered the Platoon Leaders Class program and was commissioned upon graduation from the University of Montana's School of Journalism.

Following initial training, Venola spent three years in the 6th Marines at Camp Lejeune. Having minored in French, he was able to attend the French Foreign Legion's jungle commando course in French Guyana. Reporting to Diego Garcia, he spent a year as the XO of the security force company before returning to duties as Inspector-Instructor for Grand Rapid's own A Company, 1/24. During Desert Storm he served briefly in Saudi Arabia but did not see action.

As a captain he left the Corps in 1993 on the VSI (early retirement) plan.

New Top Kick at Shooting Times

Mike Nischalke has been named editor-- been most recently senior editor for



Richard Venola, the new editor of *Guns & Ammo*, seen here with a PPSH 1941 while TAD to the Marine Corps Museum in 1985. Photo: Courtesy Richard Venola

in-chief of *Shooting Times*, having the *American Rifleman*. Nischalke started his writing career in the Marines during Operation Desert Storm. He is a graduate of the Defense Information School's print journalism, broadcasting and photojournalism courses. He participated in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia as a combat correspondent. As a Marine, Nischalke shot bullseye-pistol and highpower-rifle competition. Over the years, he has also competed in NRA Silhouette, IDPA and tactical three-gun matches.

"I can say with absolute certainty that the Marine Corps changed my world in ways I could have never imagined 17 years ago," says Nischalke. "I attribute every success I've had in life to my experience and the lessons I learned -- often the hard way -- as a Marine."

Nischalke enlisted just as the air campaign started in Desert Storm. He was stationed at Quantico MCB as a combat correspondent, and selected as one of six Quantico Marines to augment 1 MEF for "a little trip to the worst smelling country in all of Africa, Somalia."

After returning to Quantico, Nischalke was able to shoot a match while covering it for the *Quantico Sentry*, and learned to shoot with the expert tutelage of the USMC Shooting Team: "After that match, I was hooked on competitive shooting, and the science and techniques behind doing it well."

As Marine Corps Systems Command was aboard Quantico, he was able to break stories on subjects such as the M240G replacement for the haggard M60, as well as implementation of a new marksmanship qualification system.

CORRECTIONS: In last issue we ran a story of an 11 year old girl overcoming her assailants. That story, which was sent by a trusted reader, has been shown to be Urban Legend

In CMD, Nat Helms was described as having won the Navy Cross. He did not.

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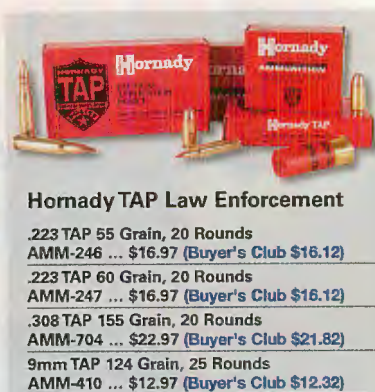


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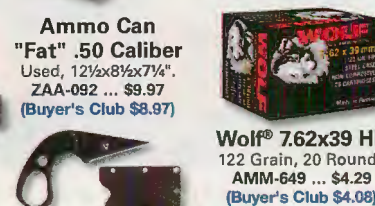
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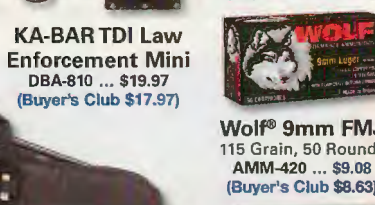
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by SOF Staff

Aimpoint Micro T-1 on the M1014
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In a recent incident, a violent felon shot his mother in the head in the driveway, then barricaded himself in the house, armed with an AK clone, a handgun and a shotgun, determined to take as many cops with him as he could.

A Maine State SWAT trooper ended the rampage very efficiently with a 20-inch barreled Remington M870 that had an Aimpoint sighting device. He hammered a full-power, 1-oz Federal 2-3/4-inch "Foster" slug through the felon's mid-chest at a measured 91 yards range.

The felon went down instantly and ART'd on the scene. At autopsy, the Foster was recovered from the criminal's upper back, next to his spinal column. The slug had punched almost completely through his upper torso, and popped out as soon as the deceased's skin was incised at that point. The recovered Foster slug was misshapen, but wasn't "expanded" or fragmented into large chunks as such slugs sometimes do in short-range shootings. A SWAT sergeant there said that their .223 caliber rifles have never put anyone down as convincingly as does a 12-gauge slug, given comparable shot placement... the Maine troopers like them.

Noted Aimpoint representative Freddie Blish, "An Aimpoint on a shotgun really extends its capabilities. While the CompM and ML (2s, 3s, and 4) will work well with shotguns, the new Aimpoint Micro T-1 is the heat on a shotgun. It has a 4-MOA dot with constant-on five-year battery life, and comes with an integral mount.

"A USAF PJ used one in a three-day shotgun work up cycle firing 100 slugs, 100 00 Buck and 400 target loads with a Micro mounted on an 870. It ran great, even hitting 18 for 18 on a steel target 118 yards away in very low light.

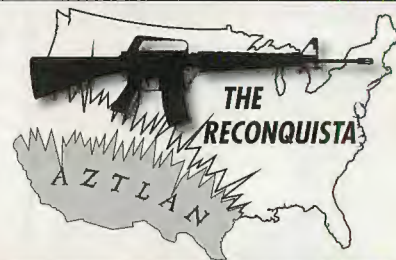
"Hans Vang is mounting a small piece of Picatinny rail on shotgun receivers, although the Micro will mount to a Weaver #36M base mount."

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Border patrol agent trains with an Aimpoint Micro T-1 mounted on a Vang customized Remington 870. Photo: courtesy Freddie Blish, Aimpoint



A USAF Para Jumper runs a course with a Remington 870 mounting an Aimpoint Micro T-1. Photo: courtesy Freddie Blish, Aimpoint



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EL BARBUDO - THE

Portrait of a Warrior in

by Dr. Martin Brass Photos Courtesy of Harry Claflin

Last month we began the tale of *Soldier Of Fortune's* adventure in El Salvador during the long guerrilla war that lasted from 1980 to 1992. Throughout the war *Soldier of Fortune* was heavily involved in reporting the El Salvadoran government's struggle against the Communist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

The civil war was launched in 1979, when supporters of Jose Napoleon Duarte of the Christian Democratic Party overthrew then President General Carlos Humberto Romero in a coup d'etat. Duarte assumed leadership of the Junta, the *Primera Junta Revolucionaria de Gobierno* that ruled from 1980-1982. His Junta and his elected government that ruled from 1984 to 1989, were unable to contain the civil war that claimed over 75,000 lives.

The FMLN gained repeated victories over the military under the interim government of Alvaro Alfredo Magana Borja, which ruled from 1982 to 1984.

The Cold War was hot, and Communist governments including the USSR, Nicaragua, Cuba, and Venezuela were supporting the FMLN.

Alarmed that Communism was further infiltrating into the Americas, the U.S. Carter Administration sent aid to El Salvador to help the government fight off the Communist sponsored

insurgency.

U.S. aid was suspended temporarily in 1980, when the international media reported that thugs from the Guardia Nacional raped and brutally murdered four U.S. nuns in 1980 and assassinated the icon of peace, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero while he was conducting mass.

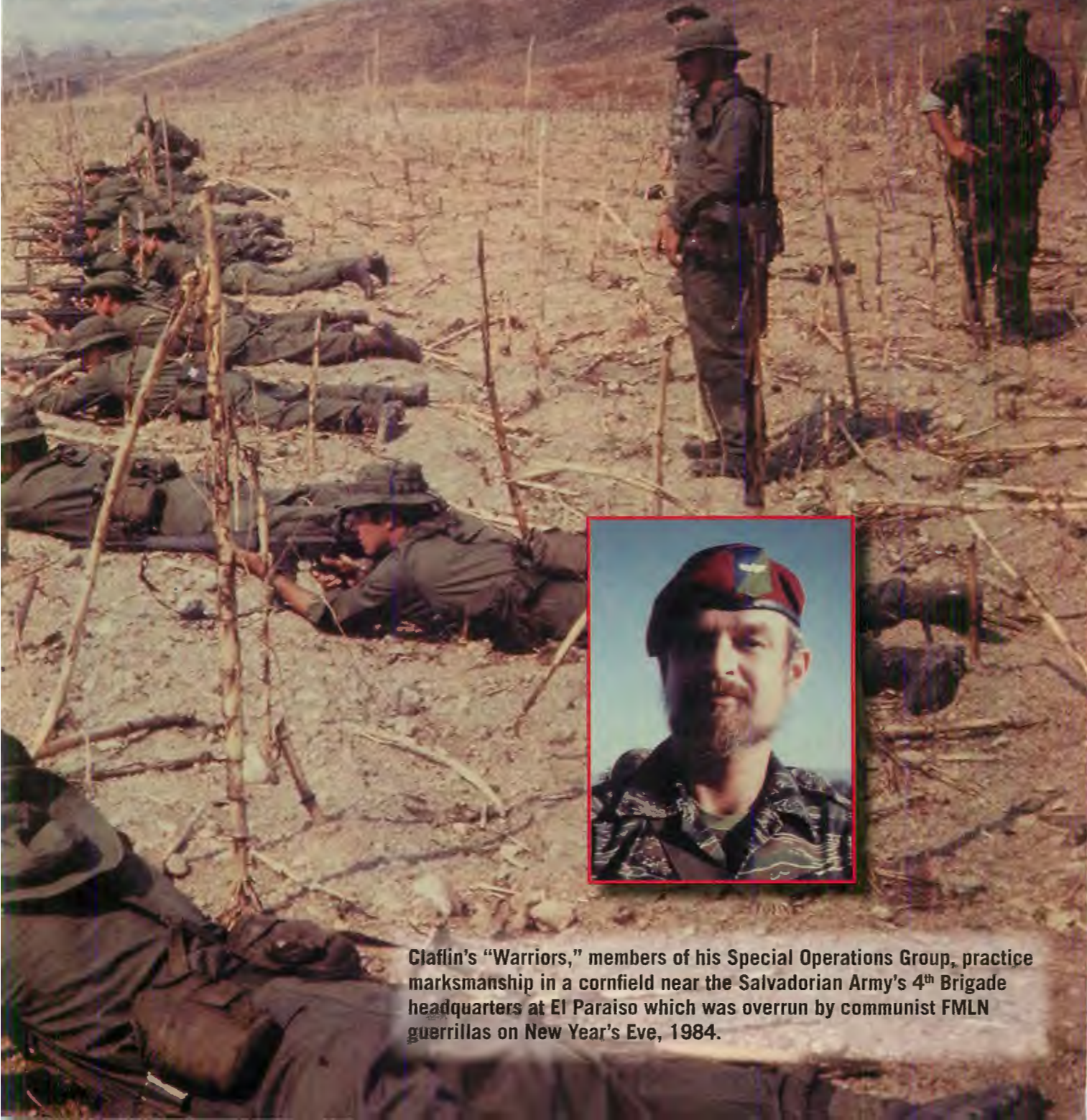
The U.S., haunted by the Vietnam War, reluctantly authorized a very restricted group of fifty-five military 'advisers', members of the U.S. Military Group (MILGRP) to train government forces. However, they were precluded from going out into the field on combat operations.

RKB castigated Congress for this restriction, suggesting, "That's like having the coach of the Denver Broncos working with the team all week and come game time, staying in the locker room while the team goes on the field to play." President Reagan, renowned for his determination to wipe out communism, increased U.S. support after he took office.

Soldier of Fortune, by then either despised or saluted for its passionate anti-Communism stance, loudly criticized the U.S. Congress for dragging its feet when it came to the cause of the Salvadoran military. The troops desperately needed training and functioning equipment.

BEARDED ONE

El Salvador Part II



Claffin's "Warriors," members of his Special Operations Group, practice marksmanship in a cornfield near the Salvadorian Army's 4th Brigade headquarters at El Paraiso which was overrun by communist FMLN guerrillas on New Year's Eve, 1984.

Forget the Deadbeat Congress, Hire Mercs

“El Salvador might consider hiring civilians with extensive military backgrounds to work as advisors without political restrictions,” stated *Soldier of Fortune*, disgusted with Congress’ spineless restrictions on sending U.S. trainers to fight the Communist insurgency in our backyard.

That’s exactly what El Salvador’s embattled military did when it engaged former Marine Force Reconnaissance NCO Vietnam vet Harry Claffin, a *Soldier of Fortune* contributing editor in unconventional warfare.

SOF volunteer training teams had



Claffin’s first Special Operations team poses for photo in 10 square mile training area near El Paraiso. Retired Special Forces Sergeant Major Rene Cardenas, far left, provided invaluable assistance as a translator and medic instructor for Claffin and *SOF* training teams over the years.

already completed several training missions to help El Salvador’s Army and Air Force, from 1980 to 1984.

That training included marksmanship, patrolling, small unit tactics, ambushes, demolitions, booby-traps, long-range land navigation, communications, insertion and extraction techniques and a host of other skills necessary for combat operations in the

mountainous, volcanic countryside.

The 4th Brigade Commander Col. Sigifredo Ochoa passed the word that he would like to have some assistance from *SOF* to organize and train a small, elite special operations unit. Harry, an *SOF* contributing editor, was assigned as the 4th brigade spec ops advisor in

1984, and was hired by El Salvador’s military a couple years later.

The rag tag army, ill-equipped and under trained, numbering around 8,000 in 1980, was organized into four small infantry brigades, one artillery battalion, and a light armor battalion.

With U.S. funding, the Salvadoran Army increased its numbers to over

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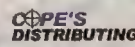
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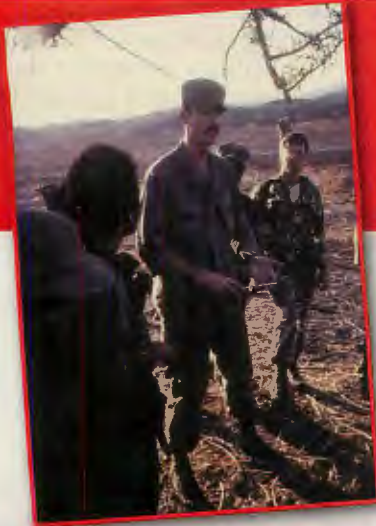
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"Special Forces Captain Ed Phillips provided invaluable help to my program," Harry recollects. "The SF advisory contingent never received proper recognition for the outstanding job they did in helping defeat the communist insurgency," Publisher Brown notes.

40,000 by 1984.

The untrained troops may have been partially prepared for a light conventional war, such as the one they fought against Honduras in 1969, "The Soccer War," but they were not prepared for a counterinsurgency.

The leftist conglomerate of rebel factions fielded a force of 10,000 guerrillas, headed by the FMLN and most were well equipped with assault rifles, machine guns and

explosives. The guerillas were inflicting heavy casualties on the Salvadoran Army and even on the more proficient Air Force, which numbered 1000. The tide began to turn in 1984, thanks to U.S. involvement and support from the Reagan Administration.

By then the FMLN controlled large areas of El Salvador along the Nicaragua border and throughout the provinces.

War Games With Hazardous Toys

Airpower Journal describes the dilapidated Salvadoran military equipment and weaponry.

Its air force fleet had eleven WWII combat planes and five DC-3 transport planes, 34 used

"Huey" UH-1H Iroquois helicopters of Vietnam vintage, capable of transporting 5,000 pounds of weaponry and ammunition, as well as Sikorski, Hughes and other aircraft.

The Salvador officials purchased everything from M-16s to six Vietnam era A-37 Dragonfly attack planes, that mounted a 7.62 mm Gatling gun, and could carry eight 500-pound or four 750-pound bombs. It could also carry eight 70mm rocket pods and cluster bombs.

After the guerillas successfully attacked an Army communications center at Chichontepec Volcano and shot down a FAS UH-1Hs, the US rushed eight additional Hueys to El Salvador.

Then in early 1982, guerrillas penetrated Illapango airbase and decimated the equipment and FAS air capability. 100 Guerillas guerillas destroyed five Ouragan fighters, six UH-1Bs, three C-47s and damaged five other aircraft, according to the Air Combat Information Group (ACIG).

The US replaced the Ouragans

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with the more functional A-37s, 12 more UH-1M Hog helicopter gunships and eight Cessna A-37B Dragonflies. The Minister of Defense and 14 others were killed when their UH-1H crashed.

The Insurgency Sweeps the Country

In 1983, with help of Cuban advisors, the FMLN rebels captured the town of Berlin. In the course of capturing that town, they destroyed several army companies and captured weapons and ammunition.

In September 1983, the rebels killed 19 government soldiers and wounded 100 in San Miguel City. Other rebel units overran a 70-man government garrison in the town of Jucuarin.

A brigade of 2,000 Army troops suffered heavy casualties when it was ambushed.

The FAS, lacking the ability to support army troops with airpower, was short of pilots and instructors to train new recruits.

In response, the US continued to send equipment and increased the

momentum of training Salvadorian troops in Honduras. The superpower patron based USAF Lockheed AC-130H Spectre gunships of 16th Special Operations Squadron at Howard AFB, Panama. ACIG contends that these gunships began flying combat missions over El Salvador, but Harry disagrees.

"The gunships were based there to come to the aid of the U.S. advisors that were in El Salvador, not to fly combat missions," Harry insisted.

1984-The Insurgency is Driven Back

On New Year's Eve, 1984 a large FMLN force overran and captured the Army's 4th Brigade HQs at El Paraiso, though they were subsequently driven out.

In late 1984-85, the United States supplied two AC-47 gunships to the FAS and trained aircrews to operate the system. These gunships carried three .50-caliber machine guns and could loiter and provide heavy firepower for army operations.

Also in 1984, 117 FAS personnel took courses at the Inter-American

Air Force Academy in Panama in contrast to 98 personnel the year before. The Military Education and Training program funded training for 118 Salvadorans in the United States in 1984.

In October that year, one UH-1 was shot down, and in November three more UH-1s were shot down and four heavily damaged in the fighting around Suchitoto. While the A-37s and the AC-47 gunships proved to be relatively safe from enemy ground fire, the small arms of the FMLN proved to be lethal against helicopters, ACIG reports.

An Insurgency Divided

By 1984, rival FMLN leaders were killing each other off, and the rebels who had expected a quick fight to power, began to disintegrate, unable to increase membership that was gradually eroding in the face of a much tougher battle than they had been told to expect.

The El Salvador military had turned the tide against the rebels by 1984, with the help of 50 UH-1Hs, ten A-37Bs and two C-47s converted to gunships.

The A-37s flew 74 strikes in June 1984 alone - compared to 227 strikes flown in all of 1983, according to ACIG.

Big Brass on the Bleachers

Harry's tale continued from last issue.

"Everything was in a shambles when I first got down there. I had to help them with the military's defunct communication equipment, then get their shabby uniforms cleaned up. From the time I went back, that's what I did, commo, clean uniforms, and then equipment then jumping once a week.

Little Paradise, a Latin Dien Bien Phu

"It was now 1985 and I was sent up to El Paraiso (the Paradise). Believe me it was anything but paradise, it was a little Latin Dien

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As Claflin initially started working with the Airborne Battalion, he jumped with his trainees on a regular basis. Hired by SOF in 1984 to assist the Salvadorian military on a permanent basis, he spent more time in that capacity than any other gringo.

Bien Phu. It had been totally annihilated three weeks before I got up there, when the guerillas had torn up the base.

“A young SF captain, Ed Phillips, who had no idea why we were there was in charge. I was with Rene Cárdenas, who was a retired SF living in El Salvador. SOF paid Cardenas to be a translator from the beginning. We went up and told Phillips what we were doing. He said we would have to get permission; he didn’t want to have anything to do with this.

“Col. La Choa was commander

of the 4th brigade. Phillips called him and I laid down the plan—we were to train a unit as a direct action unit, which means you train them to go out and find guerillas and shoot them. He then calls Col Steel who said ‘yes, you have the blessing of Milgroup, and give him all assistance’.

“I was good to go, and that started my relationship with the OPACs.”

“My first assignment after I got back to El Salvador for the second time in 1984 started out real promising.

“Col. Ochoa, a seasoned officer,

had studied with Israeli advisers in El Salvador, and later gone to Israel for training in the mid-1970s and later studied for over a year in the United States.

“Col. Ochoa asked me to train teams of Special Forces for each brigade,” Harry recalled.

“I ran into Israelis all the time, who were still involved in training Massad type operatives, but they were limited by their numbers.

“There was nothing much the paltry group of 55 U.S. Special Forces military trainers could do but bitch among themselves about the restrictions that tied their hands.

“A lot of them were a hell of a lot more skilled than I was, but they were not allowed to do what I was, like going out on combat ops.

“Even so, the Special Forces team was busy nation building. They had

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to build an army down there. They did a wonderful job. Without these 55 advisers it wouldn't have happened. They were responsible for changing the war and bringing it to the end. They couldn't train much below the brigade level, so the platoon and squad levels did not have trainers at that time.

"Col. Steele, the MILGRP commander, made it clear that the group was to give me all assistance.

"The CIA furnished money and equipment for our training. The CIA and MILGRP were butting heads most of the time, staking out their own claims and homesteading. But the Agency helped."

Harry and the GOE Program

"I was to use my military and weapon skills on the ground, hands on training troops. Now, that's just what I had gone to El Salvador for. I was assigned to 30 top notch troops that had been hand picked by Col. Ochoa. They had to have two years combat experience and be able to read and write in Spanish," he said.

"I had learned Spanish real fast since Gen. Bustillo banned English on the air base for security purposes although some of the pilots had trained in the United States and could speak English.

"I was going to teach them how to be inserted behind enemy lines, set up a base of operations, and go about hunting the guerillas down, and capture or kill them.

We organized to hit specialized targets, such as guerilla hideouts," Harry said.

This was the beginning of the Goupos de Operaciones Especiales (GOE) program in El Salvador.

GOE teams were trained to operate clandestinely for extended periods deep in contested areas. A commander could employ the smaller GOE team without the necessity of committing larger units with their accompanying logistical requirements.

A GOE team would be composed of 28 men organized into five groups, one a command group, the other four action teams. The command group would consist of one lieutenant, one sergeant, one radio operator and one medic. Each of the four action teams would consist of a team leader, assistant team leader, a radio operator, a machine gunner, a grenadier, and one sniper.

Targets would be selected, helicopter insertion would follow, and the team would orient itself to the area and develop specific plans. They would establish observation posts to gather intel to execute ambushes.

"I trained them as forward air controllers, artillery forward observers, and in intel collection, area reconnaissance, raids and ambushes.

"Of course, the elite team would have to be well equipped and well armed.

"For four solid, grueling weeks, seven days a week, 20 hours a day, I ran these troops into the ground.

"At the end of the three-week program, Col. Ochoa announced that we were going to put on a huge demonstration of the team's

performance.

"Without any notice, we were ordered to get the whole show on the road in two days time," Harry recalled his outrage at the time as he was living on adrenalin and nerves after the grueling training mission.

"It was going to be a big song and dance. We were told that the Chief of Staff, the Estado Major, General of the Army, their equivalent of West Point, and two hundred other people were going to attend.

"General Juan Rafael Bustillo from Illopango was scheduled to be there," Harry emphasized.

SOF and the General.

General Bustillo was the Commander-in-Chief of the Air force throughout the entire war, from 1979 to 1989. He was an acclaimed officer and pilot that wielded lots of political clout.

General Bustillo had been a strong supporter of SOF before Harry arrived in theater, even sending his private car driven by Special Forces



SFC Tony Paniagua to pick up RKB at the airport.

All SOF personnel were issued Salvo I.D.s or "Get out of jail free cards," as well as press credentials which allowed them to carry personal weapons on and off military bases. SOF personnel subsequently had their own arms room, supply room and ate at the officer's mess.

We met the General again in 1996, when we visited the tropical country, well after the war had ended and armed gangsters had replaced the armed rebels that threatened the security of the country.

Grandstanding at El Parisio

"Frantically, we threw up some stands to create some sort of makeshift theatre," Harry described the sense of urgency that day in 1985.

"This was the first time that the air force had released assets, to train army troops, so it was to be a very guarded event. We were going to use Hueys that the U.S. military had given to the El Salvadoran government.

"Cap. Phillips, the Special Forces advisor at El Parisio told us,

'Col. Ochoa wants a demonstration of the team's capabilities.' He was just following orders, not entirely sure of what was going on either or what to expect from the exhausted GOE personnel.

The Day Harry's Career Came Close To A Sudden Halt

Harry's not one of those loud boasting warriors, but the time had come for him to live up to the El Salvadorian's expectations. The tall, wiry, bearded American that drove himself to exhaustion along with his troops faced a huge challenge.

"I had to quickly improvise," the flamboyant Harry recalled the thrill of the challenge.

"OK, this is what we're going to do," I told my troops. 'We're going to have an air show,' Harry figuring he'd go for broke, had decided to wow the spectators.

"We'll drop a pathfinder team out of a helicopter, establish a landing zone, then pick up recon teams and bring them in and conduct an ambush and extraction.,

"The weary troops were about to give the biggest performance of their careers, and they hadn't even had a rehearsal, let alone a script to prepare our performance from.

SOF had hired Renee Cárdenas, a retired Special Forces medic Sergeant Major as my interpreter. He also taught the medic part of the course to the GOE teams.

"Cárdenas and the team organized an ambush. I had set up silhouette targets and put stakes in the ground. The audience, getting restless, couldn't see the props from the bleachers.

"We had drawn lines where each troop was to break off and go to designated spots where machine guns were set up. It was all choreographed," he chuckled.

"We were going to show what these boys could do.

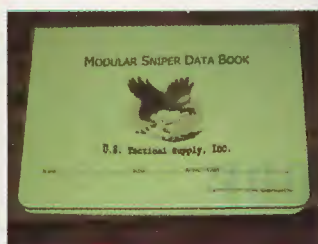
And The Show Begins

"The pathfinder comes in, rappels down, and hits the ground and sets up his panels for a chopper Landing Zone. Now, mind you, I'm on the lead chopper of the line of pathfinders. Cárdenas is in the chopper in the back and he was supposed to take the clue and launch the show.

"The pilots had shut the choppers down by some lunacy, and the old

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choppers wouldn't start up again.

"The country's 200 most powerful were sitting on the bleachers and the blasted choppers wouldn't start!" Harry's temper was raging below the surface.

**The country's
200 most
powerful were
sitting on the
bleachers and
the blasted
choppers
wouldn't start!"
Harry's temper
was raging
below the
surface.**

"Phillips was up with a pointer on a chalkboard we had set up for

the presentation, pointing with a microphone, telling the audience what to expect, or at least Phillips was telling the audience what he hoped they could expect," Harry vividly relived the tense moment when his illustrious career in El Salvador looked like it was about to come to a screeching halt.

"The pathfinder teams who will come up first," Phillips told his eager audience, "will set up the drop zone, and then recon teams will be following them down'."

Act I-Silence in the Stands

The stands were unnervingly still, the brass waiting in anticipation.

Nothing!

"Where are the helos?" Harry hollered at Cárdenas on the radio.

"They're cranking them up", Cárdenas yelled back, highly agitated. "They won't start. I'll call them back," Cárdenas, who also figured that his butt was on the line, hollered back frantically.

"The choppers the U.S. had provided were old Viet Nam era

choppers. The amount of money designated from the funds the U.S. had provided for the El Salvador military to bring the Hueys up to their operational capabilities was incredible," Harry explained.

"But these guys were good mechanics, took care of their second hand equipment.

"By the time I had gotten there in 1984, they had built a shop and had kept the helos in running condition. At that time, if we took one hundred helicopters, the average American helicopters were not operable 30 % of the time. But in El Salvador, those guys would have the same number functioning 70% of the time," he continued.

"And there I was setting on the ground in my helo, and Cárdenas was coming in formation. It looked really good; they were forming up like they were supposed to. Cárdenas hits the ground and goes with the team. I'm up in the chopper," Harry's face mirrored the frustration that had transformed into tremendous pride that he had felt on that day of reckoning.

Continued on page 72



BULLETPROOF

By **THOMAS GRAVES**

American expatriate executive Richard Blackstone accepts a new assignment to head up the Latin American operations of a powerful U.S. multinational headquartered in La Paz, Bolivia. He quickly finds himself at the center of a massive scheme of corruption and deception involving drugs and terror networks that threatens his career and his family, and requires him to make decisions that will test his principles.

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Every time I heard about Hindu Pushups and Hindu Squats I wanted to spit right in his face!



by Mike Storms

"What a liar this guy Matt Furey is." That's what I thought when I read this guy's hype-dense ads about his bodyweight exercise program called **Combat Conditioning**. Look, I'm no sucker for junk exercise programs. Not only have I lifted weights for years, but after 26 years in martial arts where I've earned a 6th-degree Black Belt in Okinawan Karate -- and six years in the U.S. Marine Corps, I've seen it all. So to say I didn't believe **Matt Furey** when he said you can get kick-butt fit with his bodyweight calisthenics would be an understatement. Not only have I been in the USMC and been in martial arts for a long time, but I played football for most of my life and have served as the martial arts instructor for the **New Orleans Saints**. So there's no way I was going to fall for a rinky dink routine like Furey's.

Not only that but I trained with Jesse Kellum, who is pound-for-pound one of the strongest men in the world. At 220 lbs. he benched over 800 pounds and squatted 1000 pounds. I, myself, could bench over 400 pounds and dead lift over 600.

Pain, Pain, Go Away

Even so, despite my immense knowledge and background, I couldn't shake this nagging feeling that Furey might be right about what he was claiming, mostly because my shoulders, knees and back were in constant pain from my weight training routine. Yes, I was strong, but I was paying a heavy price. No one likes pain -- I don't care how much you think you "can take it" -- after awhile it's not worth it. And Furey's program promised to get me stronger and more flexible without all the joint pain I had. Not possible, I thought.

My main fear, other than being in MORE pain, was that I'd lose the strength and size I had gained from weights. Then I read about the **Great Gama** of India, a wrestler who followed Furey-style training -- and he was unbeaten in 5,000 matches. In terms of size and strength, Gama was amazing. He was 5'7" and 260 pounds of streaming steel. And that was in the early 1900's -- long before steroids.

I had heard that **Bruce Lee** did the exercises Furey teaches, too. And we all know about Lee's incredible ripped, lean, muscular look. Not to mention how lightning fast and fluid he was.

I also recalled how **Herschel Walker**, a **Heisman Trophy** winner and **All-Pro Running** back did 500 pushups and situps each day. So that made me think even more, especially because Furey's exercises were supposed to be far better versions of these pushups and situps.

A Swift Slap in the Nuts!

But the final straw for me was when I met Furey IN PERSON in November of 2001. Both of us happened to be in the same hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. I introduced myself to him and he politely shook my hand and nodded. I could tell he was in great shape, but I had no idea HOW good until I playfully flicked a punch at him later that day when he was walking down the corridor. Without missing a beat Furey reacted faster than a cobra. He slapped me in the nuts and kept right on walking. He never even broke stride. I stood in awe. I had never had anything like that happen to me. An hour later I met Furey in a restaurant, took out my Platinum American Express card and gave him carte blanche. "Send me whatever you have that will help me," I said. A few days later I received my first package from Furey in the mail and I've been hooked ever since.

If you think what you are reading is nothing but marketing hype -- then let me ask you why do you think I now train the 350+ students in my dojo in Mandeville, Louisiana (Mike Storms Karate) in **Combat Conditioning**? I train young kids as well as adults in these exercises. WHY? Because they flat-out work. They boggle the mind while getting your body into ready-for-battle condition.

In Furey's **Combat Conditioning** he challenges YOU with a test. 100 Hindu squats, followed by 50 Hindu pushups, then a one-minute back bridge.

Let me tell you, when I first got the book I figured this test would be easy. I got started. At 40 Hindu squats my thighs were blitzed. It took about 90 seconds; not long compared to my barbell squat routine at the gym.

Next, I tried the Hindu pushups. Funny thing is my legs

were still shaking. I dipped down and pushed back. At 15 my arms were throbbing. This couldn't be. No way. I could bench like there's no tomorrow and this exercise was niking me. I stopped at 27 reps. This took about 1.5 minutes, so my workout had only been 2.5 minutes long.

Then the bridge. After three unsuccessful attempts of ten seconds, I had to stop. The next day my legs, chest and arms were sore, but in a good way. I thought my legs got 10 times more work with weights, but I was wrong.

Over the course of three months my body changed big time. In fact, I've made a list of 12 of the most amazing benefits that I and thousands of others all over the world have gotten from Matt Furey's **Combat Conditioning** program. I'm betting these are important to you, too.

1. I blow-torched off my excess body fat so quickly that I could eat more than I normally did and still look better than ever.
2. I packed and chiseled functional muscle onto my legs, chest and back that I've never had before, even from weights.
3. I simultaneously doubled my strength and flexibility -- and did so without needing separate workouts for each.
4. I quadrupled my endurance inside of 30 days. Just think how much this helped my sparring. No matter what, I NEVER get tired.
5. The chronic back and shoulder pain I had from years of heavy squats, deadlifts and bench pressing went away within a couple weeks. And much of that pain had been with me for nearly 10 years. It's GONE now.
6. I sleep like a log. Eight hours of deep sleep is no longer a goal. It's automatic. As soon as I hit the rack I'm out like a light.
7. My self-confidence knows no bounds. Especially when I got compliments from people who hardly paid attention to me before. I honestly believe there is nothing I cannot do. I'm on top of the world.
8. I can train anywhere. I don't need more than a few square feet of carpet or pavement and I'm all set. I have absolutely no excuses and my body is loving me for it. I don't need any equipment. Just my own bodyweight.
9. I get a kick-butt workout done in 15 minutes or less. Sure, I could do more -- but I've gotten incredible results with this amount -- so why ruin a good thing?
10. I've turned back the clock. My friends tell me I look 5 -- 10 years younger. Awesome!!
11. I have an explosive type of strength that weights couldn't give me. My movements are super fast even when I'm just screwing around.
12. My muscles are like a pliable and powerful tiger -- ready to pounce on prey in a heartbeat.

So there you have it. The 12 reasons why **Combat Conditioning** is the best fitness program on the planet. I now do these exercises everyday and they are FAR easier than when I started. I won't go a day without them. But forget about me.

Take a look at what some others in the military have to say about this program:

Matt, I am a US Marine stationed overseas. I am also a wrestler/judoka and the Marine who developed the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. I use your courses regularly. I like your no-nonsense approach. Particularly as I get older, bodyweight exercises are quick, flexible, all-encompassing and convenient. Keep up the good work!

Lt Colonel George Bristol -- USMC

Mr. Furey, We have been applying the principle of 'mastering your own body weight' to our football program and have been pleased. A 12 -- 1 championship season last year was our reward. Thank you sir.

**Bonner Cummings
Yosemite, CA**

Dear Matt, When I got your book, I changed my whole way of thinking about how one should train for Combatives. I am now totally off the weights, and, to tell you the truth, I have never felt

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better or been more flexible in my life. I feel great and have lost no size, strength, or muscle mass... as a result I scored the maximum number of points on the Army Physical Fitness test. HOOAH! You are doing great things, and I and the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School owe you a lot. TREAT 'EM ROUGH!

CPT Judd D. Mahfouz -- Infantry

*Dear Mr. Furey, Let me say I have benefited a lot from both your **Combat Conditioning** and **Combat Abs** book. I am a Marine stationed on Okinawa, Japan and I do a lot of kickboxing and NHB fighting on the side. Your exercises have given me a tremendous advantage and combined with my other routines (shadowboxing, sparring, bagwork, wind sprints, and grappling drills) have gotten me into the best shape of my life.*

LCpl Sandor Devenyi -- United States Marine Corps

*Dear Matt, Being a U.S. Marine in a field unit, I spend much of my time in Physical Training, and I'll admit, I thought that I was in peak physical condition. 2 months ago I began your **Combat Conditioning** program and quickly realized that I had been missing something. While platoon PT consists of mostly running and incorporates some bodyweight exercises (i.e. pushups, pull-ups, crunches) I had been spending the bulk of my personal training time in the weight room, lifting heavy. It embarrassed me the first time I tried to do a reverse pushup and couldn't. I haven't set foot in the weight room in the last 2 months. My 3 mile run time has dropped to below 18 minutes, I've lost a good 10 lbs and my body fat has dropped 4%. You can see the difference and God knows, I can feel the difference. I've introduced the rest of my squad to your program. Thanks for helping us kick ass and take names in a hellish and unforgiving manner.*

**D "Bubba" Byng -- LCPL, USMC
"Golf" Co, MCS Battalion**

Matt Furey's *Combat Conditioning: Functional Exercises for Fitness & Combat Sports* has 48 super effective bodyweight exercises along with seven different programs that will get you into kick-butt shape fast. Order now and you'll receive 3 free Special Reports on how to eliminate knee, back and shoulder pain.

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COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

The Latest from Robinson Arms:

by John Farnam



Alex Robinson will be shipping his excellent XCR Rifle, now in 6.8mm caliber, this fall. The 7.62X39 and .308 versions will be produced sometime in 2008. Alex is persuaded that the 6.8mm is a superior military cartridge, even if interest has (temporarily) gone cold at the Pentagon. Supply of 6.8mm ammunition, like all ammunition right now, is short, but several manufacturers are currently making it. The 6.8mm XCR takes a 25-rnd magazine, similar in dimensions to the current, 30-round, M16 magazine.

The 6.8mm is a genuine, 300-meter cartridge with excellent barrier penetration. By comparison, the current 5.56mm (.223) is a 150-meter cartridge, with poor barrier penetration. Happily, Cor-Bon's DPX round significantly improves the .223 in the penetration department, and that is my current first choice in that caliber, but effective range is still limited to 150M.

The folks at Jensen Arms, the largest and best gun retailer in Northern Colorado, tell me that the only .223 ammunition they can currently get in quantity is Serbian-manufactured, and the UN, with the enthusiastic participation of our cadre of liberal politicians, is doing its best to dry up even that supply. Quality is fair, at least for practice shooting. All this, while major domestic manufacturers have all stopped taking orders indefinitely, even from police departments. What scant .223 is available is high priced, but is being scooped up anyway. For the foreseeable future, we peons will only get what slips through the cracks of huge, in-progress Pentagon orders.

Accordingly, all of us should currently be hoarding ammunition, .223 and .308 particularly, at every opportunity. No telling when the Iraq/Iran situation will wind down, and demand for small-arms ammunition will significantly exceed supply until then. An "adequate" personal cache may become critically important in the wake of the next "big event," whenever it happens.

Rifles Under Heavy Use:

At a recent Urban Rifle Course in Wyoming we had, of course, a number of ARs, two Kalashnikovs, one SA/SOCOM (M14), one DSA/FAL, one Ruger Mini-14, and one Fulton Armory M1 Carbine.

Most of the ARs ran fine. However, one attached/coaxial flashlight fell off the first day -- not uncommon when rifles see heavy use.

One AR-user had his rifle equipped with an Aimpoint. Optic ran fine, but it was fitted with flip-up scope covers, front and

back. Several times, he mounted his rifle only to see nothing, as the covers were down! Crucial seconds were lost as he fumbled around trying to get them out of his life. Such scope-cover-engendered disasters are common.

The front sight on the SOCOM fractured and fell off within 500 rounds. The student defaulted to a DSA/FAL, which, as ever, ran fine for the duration.

Both Kalashnikovs were Eastern-European manufactured and ran fine, but both were equipped with stock, Soviet-style rear sights. Both students found the open sights difficult to use and extremely coarse, and, as a result, both had great difficulty passing our Proficiency Test. Soviet-style rifle sights are intended for youths with excellent eyes! Middle-aged shooters typically find them a good deal less satisfactory. On my Kalashnikovs, they have all been replaced with Western-style, peep sights.

The Fulton Armory M1 Carbine ran through the entire course without a hiccup. Excellent weapon, but expensive. FA is not known for their discounts.

The Mini-14 ran poorly, experiencing all manner of feeding difficulties. Most were clearly magazine-related, as some magazines definitely worked better than others. All high-capacity magazines were after-market, and none worked well. The frustrated student eventually finished the course with my DSA/AR, which, as always, ran fine.

Comment: Serious equipment must be selected with great care. With most after-market attachments and accessories, the "cure" is worse than the "disease!" When both equipment and shooter run hard and long, weaknesses quickly make themselves known.

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The Robinson XCR in 6.8 is an excellent arm in an excellent caliber, but the best of the best is of no use without ammunition. Photo: Courtesy Robinson Arms

The Robinson XCR Rifle. Photo: Courtesy Robinson Arms

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productive conversations with people I don't agree with, and to use their viewpoints to test and strengthen mine. I wish our national political dialogue could be like that, instead of being the caricature we have now.

If there is ever any way I can be of assistance to you and to SOF, don't hesitate to let me know.
Best Regards,
Matthew Verkler
NRA Life Member
President, Cut On The Action

Thanks for the *response*: Comments like those of yours go a hell of a long way to make this all worth while. Sometimes, I think of selling out and spending my ill-gotten gains hunting Cape Buffalo or joining the Karens. Slay Dragons, Do Noble Deeds and Never, Never, Never, Never Give Up!-- RKB

I found the following error in your publication of August 2007:

Be advised that Ana Belen Montes is Puerto Rican whose parents advocated the independence of Puerto Rico and that made a great impact on Ana to work for the Cubans as a spy.

On page 66 you show a B-52 flying in formation with a B-17 which in the caption you call a B-29.

Nicolas

On page 66 "Gunfighter Over Hanoi" continuance you stated in the photograph a "B52G Stratofortress does a fly-by with the fully historic B-29 Superfortress." It was a B52G doing a fly-by with a B-17 Flying Fortress. I'm currently working in Iraq and love your articles -- especially since I work in either Baghdad (BIAP) or Balad (Camp Anaconda) traveling back and forth between camps. I'm a retired Army NCO and still doing my part for my country and Brothers & Sisters in Arms.
Loyal Reader,
Leon Van Meter

Our thanks to all our loyal, sharp-eyed readers and their efforts to keep us accurate, and their kind words even when we drop the ball. -- Eds.

John Farnam and thanks Col. Brown

Amen to John Farnam in the August, 2007 Combat Weaponcraft, "The Felon Behind The Car Door, Armed But Not Ready." And, I would like to thank Col. Brown for going to the Col. Cooper memorial celebration.
Larry Berry

Surviving Doomsday

I was reading the recent information on the aborted bombing in England.

"Brown, a Scot who replaced Tony Blair as prime minister just days earlier, urged Britons to remain 'constantly vigilant' about security. He said 'Everything is being done in our power ... to protect people's lives.' And, I have no doubt that you will get the same answer from the people responsible for security in America. "The advantage," Che Guevara wrote, "is always to the guerrilla." Doomsday, as I envision it, is that moment when disruptive forces create enough havoc that the predator scavengers amongst us are emboldened enough to seek out

the weak and unarmed that they may take from them what they please. It is crucial that "We, the people" have the means to resist in order to continue to function, as a society and democracy. No amount of government forces can stop this domestic enemy. It is already amongst us. It is most important therefore, that our society not be deprived of its "strong men" (and women).

We must have information that is a means to "surviving doomsday." That information is becoming more and more suppressed under the guise of protecting you. "He who surrenders his freedom for temporary security does not deserve, nor will he have, either."

Ironwulf

Spanish Foreign Legion International Missions

I am "sorta" interested in this group, haven't heard or read anything about them; just wondering if there is a reason SOF hasn't done a story on them?

Cecil Roper Lebanon, OK

Cecil: We did a piece on them several years ago. No plans to do anything in the near future. At the time of our story, the Spanish Foreign Legion was slated to be eventually disbanded. Google up Spanish Foreign Legion today and there are some current sites.

Regards,

Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.)

Editor/Publisher

Soldier of Fortune Magazine

Risk Takes the Return?

I received an offer to go to Iraq as an advisor to a minister or ministry office with four bodyguards. Well, one of my intel contacts just told me something you can't find in any U.S. news media (I know, I looked; it is only being reported in Brit media, and only twice), that a Brit advisor to an Iraqi ministry was snatched, with his four bodyguards in a ministry office, by 40 guys in Iraqi police uniforms early in June. No word or sign of them ever since.

Funny that the U.S. media did not see fit to report it, but then a spoiled little rich girl going to a comfortable jail was more important to today's media than a story about five missing Brits in Iraq likely to be tortured and killed. It looks to me like Sadr's people kidnapped the Brits -- they lost one of their top people killed in raids just before the Brits were snagged, so the Sadr militia might have been sending a message or taking revenge. They have infiltrated the police and military so it is easier for them to fake being cops or to have actual cops helping out under threat of death to families, etc.

I have to look hard now to find information on Iraq in the media -- most are stories of the blood but nothing on progress or lack of. Just about bleeding and bombs. And it is harder finding out who is doing what to whom in Palestine and the Levant, where my intel contact -- a well-educated intel officer with a background in that area -- tells me it is not a simple case of terrors vs. the Lebanese government. He says some of the largest Lebanese tribes are involved on both sides.

Darrel Jones



THE PLEI DJERENG RODEO

There We Was on the Cambodian Border,
and this Ain't No Bull...

by Y-Moe

In the summer of 1967, Detachment B-50, Project Omega, commanded by Major Merlin "Pappy" Lamar, was running recon operations from a launch site located west of Pleiku near the Cambodian border. The site was installed next to an all-weather airstrip about 500 meters west of the base camp for Detachment A-215 at Plei Djereng. The camp was also called New Plei Djereng, as the original camp had been in a location that became untenable and the camp was relocated to the new site where it occupied two small hills.

There was also a local Montangard village named Plei Doch located due north of the airstrip.

We were installed in a temporary camp, living in tents with bunkers and slit trenches for defense and protection. The camp was set up generally in a rectangular design with the aviation assets, fuel and ammunition located at the west end of our camp.

At the time, Project Omega forces in the camp comprised a headquarters and support element, a number of recon teams employing Americans and Montangards, a security

and reaction/exploitation force of three companies of Montangard troops with U.S. and Australian leadership, a USAF FAC team flying an O-1E birdog, an Army aviation element from the 219th Reconnaissance airplane company "the Headhunters" based in Pleiku and Ban Me Thuot, plus attached helicopter elements from Camp Holloway. The latter provided the lift ships to insert and recover recon teams and also to insert the reaction forces when there was a target worth exploiting. Mostly, they flew UH-1D or UH-1H lift ships and UH-1B gun ships. That summer we enjoyed the services of the 119th AHC, the 189th SHC and the 170th AHC.

We also had our Mike Force, the project's own reaction/exploitation forces securing the site and the ramp and fuel storage areas, all situated along south side the airstrip that served the camp.

We ran recon missions for several months from that site, concentrating our efforts in the Plei Trap Valley and along the Cambodian border due west of the launch site. During the same time, other Omega recon teams were working for MACV-SOG and operating

Our recon team poses on airstrip at Kontum a few months after the rodeo, from left to right: Y Sanyun, One-Zero (author), Mang Lot, Mang (?), One-One, and Y Crum Nie. At that time, teams were named after tools, such as Auger. We were a Daniel Boone team and were in sterile clothing and using AKs. Photo: Author's Collection

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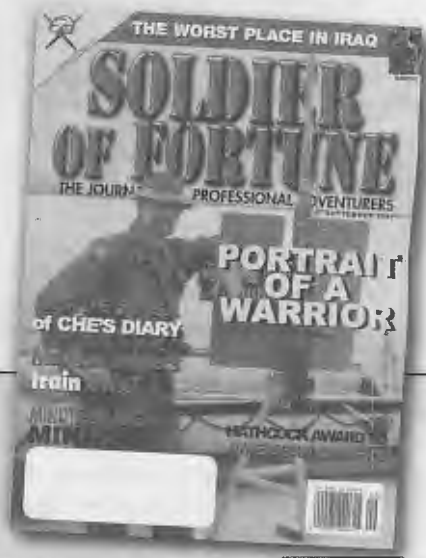
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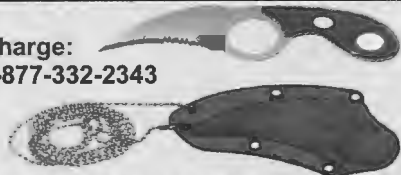
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After covering the area thoroughly, the project was in need of a stand down and to recruit some new personnel. Powers that be decided to take the forces to Nha Trang for a stand down and to recruit some new recon personnel and train them up. So one morning a string of C-130 aircraft began moving the personnel back to Nha Trang. For some reason there was not enough airlift for everyone to go, so some of us were left back to be picked up in a day or two. After all, we were a high priority operation, and we would not be there long.

The rear detachment was the recon section and a small security element from our Mike Force. Our tents were gone so we just threw some hootches together and began to wait.

We were not left without some resources, though. We had several pallets of beer, a gas-powered refrigerator trailer full of meat, a communications shelter, a generator for the communications and some cans of water. Each man had his weapons and field gear, but little else.

IDLE HANDS AND THE DEVIL

So we waited, played cards, ate poorly cooked meat and drank mostly hot beer. But we did have one other diversion: One enterprising member of our group had pirated a maritime mobile call sign and when the propagation was right, we could make High Frequency calls to amateur radio



This portion of a map shows the airfield: The A-Team was about half a Klick east of the airfield on two small hills. Our launch site was on the south side of the runway near the east end within a section bordered by some dirt tracks. Map: U.S. Army

operators in the States, who would set up phone patches with our families and girls in the U.S. That was how I found out a certain blond living in Dallas was not pining away for me but really on vacation in Houston with another guy.

Well days passed and no airplanes arrived. The diet of meat and beer was getting old, supplies were about depleted in fact, and boredom crept in. We did not have a lot of ammo so we could not do much training and there was little else to occupy our minds.

Then one day one of the recon guys noticed the local Montangards herding some old, skinny cows past, to graze in the area at the far end of the runway. For some reason the recon guy came up with the idea that we should have a rodeo.

We would rent or trade for the use of some cows from the locals, and set up something to kind of pin the animals and then ride the critters. It sounded like a really good idea at the time and we put the wheels into motion immediately. Some guys started work on a place to control the cows, and the rest of us began to make some straps and so on from old climbing ropes and other stuff lying around. Still others, the silver tongued ones I think, made the deal with the local farmers to use the cattle. I doubt they knew the truth but somehow a deal was made.

The next day we were all set. The Montangards brought some cows and quite a few villagers came to see the show. There was little in the way of any kind of entertainment in that area, so any diversion was welcome. Plus, they were just curious to see what craziness the damned Americans were up to this time! After a few beers and meat for breakfast we tried to conduct the rodeo. Needless to say it was a disaster. The damned cattle would not cooperate! The place we set up to control the beasts never worked at all. Even with a dozen grown men holding each cow, not one cow would allow a guy to fully mount. Most of us just slipped off to one side or the other. I got almost on top -- I figure I had about a 30 degree list to

port as I tried to mount from the left -- and I estimate I lasted about .02 seconds before I got a mouth full of red, flinty, laterite soil. No one stayed aboard for more than one or two jumps and most never even got on top. I think it was like 10-0 in favor of skinny Montangard cows. In the end it was cool steely eyed killers wearing dirt, bruises, and scrapes and cows calmly chewing their cuds and going about cow business, but no serious injuries to any of us. Lucky too, because our boss, Major Merlin "Pappy" Lamarr would have probably skinned us alive if we had gotten broke up could not go to the field. He put up with a lot of stupidity from us from time to time, but stepping on our collective neckties would not have been good if it interfered with a mission. The Montangards just smiled, puffed placidly on their pipes and went back to surviving as before, only now they had one more story to pass on to the next generation about the incomprehensible things the Americans did when they were there.

THE ONLY BREAK WAS LUCKY

In any case the event was not wasted. It seems that the rodeo must have come to someone's attention, and they could not afford to have us all broken and unavailable for operations. Even in Special Forces, volunteers for the recon units were scarce at times, and we really were kind of valuable to someone. Hell, if we were hurt, they might have to go to the field!

So the next day the C-130s began to arrive, bright and early in the morning. We all loaded up and were back in Nha Trang in time for lunch and beginning to enjoy a short stand down. And also to receive part of an RPG attack on our barracks and a grenade attack on some new Mike Force recruits -- but that is a different story and not humorous at all. ✖

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By Dr. Martin Brass


AMERICA AT WAR


1 ALGERIA


SUICIDE BOMBING just before All-Africa Games, kills eight soldiers near army barracks: 200,000 have died since 1992 in civil war between murderous Islamic Government and fundamentalist rebels.

2 SOMALIA

SEVENTEEN PIRACY ATTACKS recorded off coast in 2007. Piracy worldwide up 37% in second quarter of 2007 vs. same period in 2006 as attacks off Somalia increase, according to the International Maritime Bureau.

3  **KENYA BOMB BLAST** at bus stop kills two, injures 37. **POLICEMAN'S** head found in Nairobi River; Police crackdown against gangs kills 20.


4  **UNITED KINGDOM 9-11 NOT RELATED TO ISLAMIC TERRORISM** according to 45% of U.K. Muslims, and 7/7 **BOMBINGS** that killed 52 commuters on the U.K. transport system not related to Islamic terrorism, claim 60% of U.K. Muslims: 25% believe government was responsible for 7/7 bombing.

5  **GERMANY USAFRICOM**, to cover Africa, to be based in Stuttgart, Germany and operational by Fall 2008. Missions will focus on conflict prevention and humanitarian and economic aid.

6  **NICARAGUA COMMUNIST NEMESIS** President Daniel Ortega makes friends with radical Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

7  **SPAIN AI-QAIDA MOROCCAN TERROR** suspects arrested.

8  **BURMA BLOODTHIRSTY JUNTA** orders military campaign against ethnic minorities.

15  **MEXICO GANG WARS** between JOAQUIN "Shorty" Guzman and Gulf Cartel in North Mexico kill nearly 1000 this year.

16  **IRAN U.S. INTEL UNCOVERS TERRORIST TRAINING CAMP.** Commando raid that killed five Americans had been simulated in camp before execution of raid in Iraq. **NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM** continues to create international crises.

15

17

16

12

8

9  **THE NETHERLANDS** MILITARY

UNIONS demand pullout from Afghanistan, citing lack of personnel to rotate enough vehicles, due to severe cutbacks from government dominated by Socialists. Cutbacks include discarding 28 Leopard tanks, 18 F-16's, 12 armored howitzers. **SOF** source warns that pulling out of Curacao may be an invitation to Chavez to invade - and the U.S. to intervene.

10  **AFGHANISTAN** 2007 POPPY YIELDS

EQUAL 92% of total global production in 2006, up 12% from previous year and 40% over previous decade, according to World Drug Report. **VIOLENCE ESCALATES** as 1,000 killed in insurgency-related violence in June alone, including 700 militants and 200 civilians (AP). More than 3,100 people have been killed in Afghanistan this year.

11  **SAUDI ARABIA**


TERRORISTS NUMBERS in country have gone down: 5,000 Saudi Islamic radicals bought the farm in Iraq.

12  **INDONESIA**


ISLAMIC RADICALS terrorize Christians as they worship, tearing up churches, forcing 30 to shut down. **PIRATE HAVEN MALACCA STRAITS** to be protected by China, Japan and neighboring countries to protect oil imports.

13  **NEPAL** GURKA

MERCENARY FORCE to hire 50 Maoist Nepalese females, breaking 200-year-old male tradition. **MAOISTS** demand that the U.K. and India stop recruiting Nepalese.

14  **CONGO**

CORRUPTION AND BRIBES ROCK Pakistani UN peacekeeping contingent, charged with selling rebel-confiscated guns for gold -- to other rebels.

19  **IRAQ**

SADDAM LAUNCHED SCUD MISSILE capable of carrying nuclear warhead in 1989, according to UN Monitoring, Observation, Verification and Inspection Commission.

15  **UNITED STATES**

CIA STING YIELDS ARRESTS OF LOATION REBELS, ethnic Hmong, accused of conspiring to buy AK-47s, Stingers, machine guns, rockets and explosives to stage coup in Laos. The plan was to blow up government buildings and kill thousands. **MINUTEMEN** accuse Bush of inviting terrorists in, because of refusal to secure borders and by visiting the Washington Islamic Center, Saudi-funded number-one mosque. Sen. Lieberman supports military action against Iran for its support of killing of U.S. troops in Iraq.

16  **PHILLIPINES**

SECURITY OFFICIALS ride on busses to intercept terrorist bombs in extortion schemes. **GOVERNMENT DEATH SQUADS** assassinate 800 rebels.



The Magnificent Marines



The V-22 Tiltrotor Prepares for

Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C. - Once again United States Marine Corps aviators are pushing the aerial envelope - this time in the MV-22 Osprey, the world's first "tiltrotor" war bird.

Just as Marine Corps aviators turned the U.S. Navy's maligned Chance Vought F4U Corsair into the best fighter of World War II and tamed the wildly dangerous McDonnell-Douglas AV8A Harrier "jump jet," the Corps has again put its reputation on the line taking this new \$71-million-a-copy aerial hybrid into battle. After 25 years of Pentagon knife fighting, the Osprey is ready to go to war despite the legion of ground-bound naysayers who still claim it will never fly.

But fly it does. I was at Marine Corps Air Station New River in North Carolina in late May to watch the intrepid aviators of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 263 - the mighty "Thunder Chickens" - literally leap into the sky. Almost without a sound the squadron took to the overcast skies on their way to "Exercise Desert Talon" near Yuma, Arizona, the squadron's final operational test before it deploys for war.

The move was made with very little fanfare. The crews streamed in through the high-tech security gate at the very civilized hour of 0800 with flight bags and helmets in hand. In quick order they reached the 10 Ospreys waiting to fly them across the United States. After a lengthy walk-around inspection the pilots disappeared inside the birds. The crew chiefs stayed outside, talking to them via

a long intercom cord that disappeared into the airframe of each bird while they went through their lengthy preflight checks.

It was a good time to look the strange aircraft over. First impression is that the Osprey is big; more than 83-feet wide and 57 feet long. It weighs almost 34,000 pounds empty. Its wingspan is wider than the twin-rotor CH-46 helicopter is long, and 5 feet taller. Fully loaded for a "self-deployed" takeoff, it weighs in at a hefty 60,500 pounds. For that much weight to get off the ground it needs a very short takeoff run. In its vertical take off configuration, the Osprey can jump straight up with 52,600 pounds, the Marine Corps says.

The second impression of the Osprey was how different it looks to the conventional helicopters around it. Although it is named after a fierce bird of prey it doesn't look at all like the graceful sea-going raptor. It better resembles the futuristic toy called Transformer that children can effortlessly twist into new geometric shapes. Confounding the vision of grace further are stubby wings fitted with two huge engines hanging from squared off wing tips that appear to be pointing in the wrong direction. Above them sit massive 38-foot diameter, three-bladed "proprotors" that look like huge paddles.

The proprotors are connected to each other by interconnected drive shafts that maintain proprotor synchronization and provide single-engine power to both props in the event of an engine failure. In

addition, the engines and flight controls are controlled by a triply redundant digital fly-by-wire system, Bell engineers say.

In laymen's terms they mean computers intercept the pilots' manual control input and responses and convert them into digital signals that actually move the flight controls. The Osprey is a quirky bird and it takes the intervention of the aircraft's computers to make sure it flies correctly. The Osprey's onboard computers take the pilot's input and makes minute, instantaneous adjustments to the control surfaces that keep the V-22 in the correct flight regimen at all times.

A Tough New Bird

The Osprey fuselage has smooth lines and softly rounded flanks. The airframe is constructed primarily of graphite-reinforced epoxy composite material instead of traditional metals. The engineers who build the aircraft for the Bell/Boeing consortium who make it say the composite structure provides an improved strength-to-weight ratio, corrosion resistance, and damage tolerance compared to typical metal construction. Armor protection is built into the aircraft using composite construction that integrates ballistic armor into the fuselage and important component structures. When trying to describe its virtues, robustness rather than beauty comes to mind.

To keep the bird in the air after battle damage, the MV-22 has redundant,

(Top spread photo) MV-22 from training squadron VMMT 204 during exercises near New River. Note that the refueling probe is extended. **Photo USMC, (Left logo)** VMM 263 Thunder Chickens' unit crest. Courtesy VMM-263

and Their Flying Machines



Battle, Part I

By Nat Helms

separated flight controls as well as redundant electrical and hydraulic systems. An integrated electronic warfare defensive suite includes a radar warning receiver, a missile warning set, and a countermeasures dispensing system to ward off threats.

There is also a position for a ramp-mounted defensive weapon platform capable of supporting several different automatic weapons. The Marine Corps' current choice is the 7.62mm M240G machine gun, although it can support a Browning M2 .50 cal as well, according to U.S. Navy V-22 Program spokesman James Darcy at the Patuxent "Pax" River Naval Air Station in Maryland. Darcy says Marine Corps studies showed most incoming fire in the current conflicts comes from the rear, after an aircraft's departure from the landing zone. "Bell-Boeing doesn't decide those things," Darcy explained. "The Marine Corps tells us where it wants weapons and we try to accommodate them."

Initially, the aircraft was designed to carry a defensive automatic weapon in a chin turret, Darcy said, but the Marine Corps decided it would take away from the crew's primary mission of delivering troops to the battlefield. The Corps' thinkers don't want its hotshot pilots engaging the enemy in personal duels instead of dropping off troops.

"The 24 Marines it has onboard are its weapons," Darcy says. Apparently the planners understand Marine aviators' irresistible urge to mix it up with the enemy whenever possible.

At the front of the Osprey is a compact cockpit fitted for two pilots. On the right sits the aircraft commander and on his left, the co-pilot. The pilots come from varied aviation backgrounds. VMM-263 and its sister squadrons have gathered into the fold F/A-18 and AV8B Harrier fighter jocks, CH-53D and E, Huey, and CH-46 helo pilots, C-130 Hercules aerial refuelers, as well as former Air Force and Navy aviators who bring with them a wealth of experience in other aircraft. Lt. Col. Anthony J. Bianca is the Marine Air Group (MAG) – 26 MV22-Transition Officer, and is an Osprey Pilot charged with retraining pilots at New River. MAG-26 is the parent organization of the Thunder Chickens. Before flying Ospreys, Bianca flew giant CH-53 Sea Stallions around the world.

New Training for Missions in New Aircraft

"It isn't like we got old tiltrotor pilots to go back to," Bianca quipped. Bianca is currently in Yuma working with VMM-263 pilots preparing to go into combat, he said. Bianca and other experienced Osprey pilots from MAG-26 and within the squadron are helping the Thunder Chickens' neophytes bone up on last-minute combat maneuvers without wringing their own necks.

In the hands of an experienced pilot, the Osprey can fly forwards, backwards, and sideways, Bianca stated. Much of

that control comes from the way the engine nacelles are tilted. Pilots can even tilt the rotors backwards. When the pilots want to change the direction the nacelles are pointing they "beep" them up or down using a button on one of the control sticks.

Unlike helicopters that approach an LZ at 120 knots making a racket heard for miles, the Osprey comes in silently at more than 200 knots before slowing down about 75 seconds out, Bianca explained.

"It is very quiet until we beep the nacelles up," Bianca says, "and by then it is too late. We are already there. Coming out we beep the nacelle's down and in no time we are doing more than 200 knots climbing out of there. It can really climb."

"Our pilots go to a Class D – airline quality – simulator before they actually fly in the Osprey. It isn't like the old Huey days when there was no simulator or very primitive ones. These guys experience everything; vibrations, all the visuals, odd G loads, the entire mission envelope before they ever actually fly one. They got a lot of simulator hours already when they get in it for the first time and know some of what to expect." One of the many new skills most Osprey pilots have to master is how to use the refueling probe sticking out from the right side of the rounded nose. Simply called A-R in pilot lingo, aerial refueling calls for the pilot to push his extended probe into a small basket floating at the end of a long hose to take on gas.

(Top right photo) VMM 263 Osprey taking off at New River. Notice the forward tilt of engine nacelles. Photo: Nat Helms



MV-22 sling loads an M777A1 155mm howitzer during testing.

Marine Corps' C-130K Hercules aerial tanker as well as the Air Force KC-10 and KC-135 tankers to fill up. On several trips across the United States and over water to Europe, Ospreys have already mated up with tankers. Because the MV-22's 200-plus knot cruising speed and 25,000-foot ceiling is so much higher than the helicopters it replaces, the Osprey can refuel on one wing of a fixed wing tanker while an A/F-18 or other fast



Bell XV3 transcendental lift experimental aircraft circa 1955. Photo: US Army

The catch is, the basket is dangling behind an airplane moving at 250 miles per hour, thousands of feet in the air. Bianca called A-R "easy."

"Refueling is one of the easier things they learn," Bianca said. "We have had 46 pilots in a row learn combat aerial refueling. It is just flying in formation with the C-130. Aerial refueling is made easier because of superior control performance. They just fly in formation at 200 to 210 knots... no problem."

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The Osprey has been tested using the

mover is taking on gas next door, Darcy said.

Right for the Mission: Form Follows Function

The nose and fuselage of the V-22 resemble a small cargo plane. Its tail feathers are large, twin vertical stabilizers jutting over an aft ramp that looks akin to the ramp on the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter it replaces. The ramp is hydraulically operated and can be opened in flight. Most grunts riding into battle will have to stream off the ramp in full battle order after the Osprey nestles

on the ground. Bianca said the pilots can hover with the nose up or down, so the Marines can exit faster. In addition, grunts can fast rope their way out, parachute, or jump directly into water or on land depending on their circumstances and mission. The Osprey's capabilities are already appreciated by the special-operations types who have worked with the new bird, Darcy said.

In tests at Pax River, a U.S. Navy SEAL team commander, a lieutenant with some trepidation about fast roping from the bird before he tried, discovered the beast wasn't nearly as dangerous as



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he had been led to believe. In addition to discovering that fast roping was just as easily accomplished from an Osprey as a helicopter, the tentative SEAL discovered the Osprey's inherent speed, relative quiet, and amazing maneuverability coming into tight landing zones, Darcy explained. After the tests were completed, the SEAL lieutenant opined that during combat operations in Afghanistan the year before, the Osprey would have come in real handy. It performed much better than the slow,

noisy helicopters his team always rode in on, he said.

In Afghanistan the SEALs were required to deplane long distances from their objective, in a widely spread formation, because the noise of their arrival preceded them by several minutes, the SEAL officer explained. When the bad guys heard the choppers coming in they invariably took off running, requiring the teams to be spread out in a net large enough to snare the fugitives no matter which way they ran. In

an Osprey, the SEALs would have arrived almost noiselessly and been on the ground before the bad guys could react, the lieutenant says.

In addition to carrying 24 fully loaded troops, the Osprey can also carry 8,000 pounds of internal cargo and up to 15,000 pounds in a sling load, depending on how the bird is configured. In addition, it is designed to carry the Internally Transported Vehicle (ITV) the United States Marine Corps is testing using the

(top left) Osprey lands aboard USS Saipan during training exercises. Photo: USMC (top right) Osprey taxis into position on deck of USS Saipan during training exercises. Photo: USN

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American Growler, Inc.'s proposed vehicle -- often incorrectly identified as the "Growler" -- the current darling of the development program.

The Internally Transported Vehicle

This offshoot of the ubiquitous Vietnam-era M151A1 "jeep" the ITV has been cut down to fit into the narrow belly of V-22. The Marine Corps eventually

expects to field about 600 to 700 of the two-ton, \$120,000-a-copy tow trucks if they are accepted for fielding. With the exception of the V-22 itself, the \$120,000 per copy ITV has raised more eyebrows among critics than any other facet of the program.

The Growler, Inc.'s proposed truck comes in

two basic configurations: a Light Strike Variant (LSV), designed for Marine Corps infantry and reconnaissance battalions; and, the Expeditionary Fire Support System (EFSS) Prime Mover (PM), designed to tow the EFSS 120mm "Dragon Fire" rifled mortar and ammunition trailer. The unarmored LSV is protected by pintle-mounted automatic weapons. The PM tows the French-designed RT 120, a 120mm mortar that can fire smoothbore or rifled ammunition. It has a range of 8.2 km/ 5 miles, or 17 km/ 10 miles with rocket-assisted

projectiles currently under development, the Marine Corps says.

The 120mm mortar it is designed to tow has received a better reception. The tube is lightweight, reportedly accurate, and already in use in NATO armies. The EFSS weapon system will consist of two ITV tow vehicles to tow the Dragon Fire and its ammunition trailer. The ammunition trailer holds 36 mortar rounds in factory-recyclable steel containers. One vehicle and ancillary equipment fits in each Osprey.

Currently, the Marine Corps is in the final stages of testing 16 ITVs already purchased. A decision whether to field them should be made by October 2007, Marine Corps spokesman Capt. Jeff Landis said. Critics say the ITV is too small, too light, too underpowered, and far too expensive to be of any practical use.

EFSS represents the short-range leg of a "triad" of weapons that comprise the Marine Corps land-based fire support capability, Landis added. The medium-range leg is the M777A1 air-transportable 155mm howitzer. The lightweight 155mm howitzer is a joint British/U.S. effort that uses titanium to bring its weight in at just 3,745 kg/ 8,240 pounds -- 7,000 pounds less than the 155mm M198 howitzer it replaces. Maximum firing range is 25 km/ 15 miles with unassisted rounds, and 30 km/ 18 miles with rocket-assisted rounds, about the same as the M198 155mm now in service.

In July 2004, the M777A1 successfully completed a series of tests with the MV-22, where it was carried as an external load for a distance of 69 nautical miles. Eventually, 380 howitzers are to be delivered to the U.S. Marine Corps Air Ground Task Forces, the Marine Corps says.

The last "leg" of the Marine Corps' triad weapons system designed around the Marine Corps' "deep penetration" air mobility concept is the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS). At 12 tons, the HIMARS exceeds the V-22's 10,000 pound cargo hook capacity limit for external cargo by almost seven tons. Therefore movement into theater will be by aircraft, including C-130 Hercules tactical transports, and by amphibious means. Movement to the battle line will be

by road or air, slung under one of the Corps' 150 Sikorsky CH-53E Super Stallions. The huge three-engine horse can haul 18 tons a short distance or 12 tons for 110 nautical miles. The K model is expected to do even better when it comes on line in about seven years.

Next month: the final test before deployment to the War in Iraq, some of the Marines who are making the program work, and what it has cost in men and treasure.

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(top) Osprey taxis into position on deck of USS Saipan during training exercises. Photo: USN

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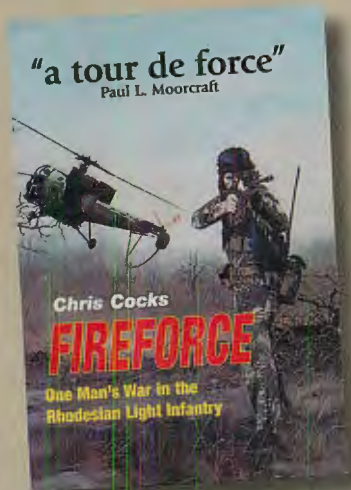


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Fireforce is the compelling, brutal account of Chris Cocks' service in 3 Commando, the Rhodesian Light Infantry, during Zimbabwe's bitter civil war of the 1970s – a conflict that came to be known simply as “the bush war.” The book's title refers to a tactic of total airborne envelopment developed and perfected by the RLI, together with the Selous Scouts and the Rhodesian Air Force, that became the principal strike weapon of the beleaguered Rhodesian forces in their struggle against the overwhelming tide of the Communist-trained and-equipped ZANLA and ZIPRA guerrillas. This book is not for the squeamish: It blends the intrinsic pathos and humor peculiar to war with face-to-face combat in the bush and death at point-blank range. Now, here is your chance to read what several critics have called the best book on the Rhodesian War ever written.

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This glossy, coffee-table history contains hundreds of unique and previously unpublished color photos, maps, rolls, honors, awards, and personal memorabilia from former RLI members, as well as a tribute by Ian Smith and a foreword by the RLI's last commanding officer, Lt. Col. Charlie Aust. It truly captures what it was like to be a troopie of this storied unit. Paladin Press
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The Ambush, They

All Die

"The helos go up. We have targets set up to simulate a linear ambush where everybody would be on line. Claymores were set up, one on each end to designate when to start the ambush.

"If everything was to go right, everything and everyone in this section would die. An ambush would last 5-10 seconds on each end. Then we were to have a safety team that was to go out while the rest would go in and strip the bodies. We would gather Intel, regroup and get back up on the helicopters."

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"The Claymore caps went off, but the claymores did not detonate. The whole world is watching.

Cárdenas -The Man

"When he realized that they didn't go off, Cárdenas initiated the ambush, with four M60s going

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off at once, four M79s hitting the dry ground. The fireworks were all impacting on the targets. It was very impressive. The troops grabbed up the targets and victoriously laid them down by the stands.

"I called the choppers back, picked the team up and we were gone.

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"Nobody believed you could take these infantry kids and train them to this speed," he said.

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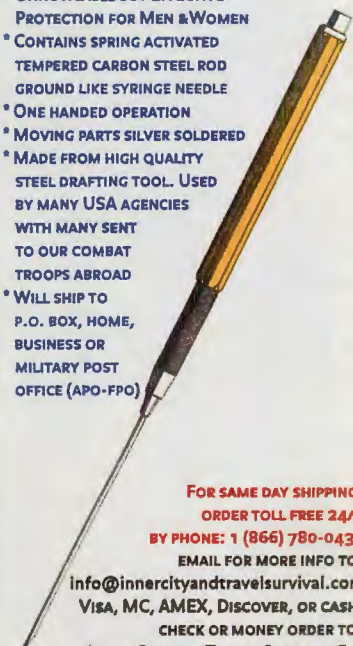
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Text and photos by
Gary Paul Johnston



Just when most of us thought we'd seen it all, Magpul Industries Corp., of Boulder, Colorado, brought their new Masada tactical rifle to Orlando and literally stopped the 2007 SHOT Show. Immediately apparent was that this was not just another 5.56mm NATO rifle, not by a long shot. Blending the best materials with state-of-the-art production methods, the Masada also combined new ideas with long-standard operating principles to bring an advanced rifle to the 21st Century table.

The company began with a soft (rubbery) polymer device that resembles a jock strap for a magazine, and Richard Fitzpatrick became an "overnight" success with his Magpul from which his innovative company got its name. Not only does the Magpul make it infinitely easier to get your magazine out of its pouch, but is also protects it when it hits the pavement during a speed reload.

Next came Rich's first M16 stock. He and I laughed when I recounted introducing him to a huge firearms manufacturer a few SHOT Show's ago. To my horror, the marketing folks treated Rich like hammered dog s--t, telling him his product would never sell. Not only did it sell well -- to the U.S. military -- but Magpul now has a rifle that could leave that other company's entry howling by the side of the road.

A group effort, the Masada is the creation of Magpul's founder, Richard Fitzpatrick, Mike Mayberry, Eric and Brian Nakayama and Drake Clark. The Masada is initially produced in 5.56x45mm NATO (.223 Rem.), and is operated by a conventional short-stroke gas piston.

However, the rifle will likely also be produced in several other calibers, to include 7.62x39mm (already produced), 5.45x39mm, 6.8x43mm SPC and 6.5mm Grendel.

Using a now-conventional rotating multi-lug bolt and carrier, the Masada also has many surprises. As such, it will be exciting news for American law enforcement, not to mention the U.S. military and those of friendly foreign countries. Make no mistake about the latter element, as Richard Fitzpatrick is a former U.S. Marine and damned proud of it. Recently I traveled 300 miles over "the mountain" to Denver



Magpul's 20" long-range Masada is highly accurate. As with all the other versions, this one will be offered in several calibers. It is shown here with the Advanced Armament 5.56mm suppressor.

for a first look and live fire test of the Masada and of Magpul.

Unless a designer is influenced by "something" other than history, he or she may come up with something that looks like it escaped from a science fiction movie, and firearms are no exception. We've all seen them come and go, and come and go again. Not so with the Masada: Oh, your eye will be captivated by the rifle at first glance, but it will be magnetic instead of the all too usual, "What the...?"

Somewhat suggestive of the M16 rifle, the Masada does have some things in common with that rifle. From the gas block forward, the barrel in either light or heavy configuration, is essentially M16, and will accept a SureFire Suppressor mount or those of virtually any other manufacturer.

Like that of the M16, the Masada's gas block is pinned to the barrel, but there is no bayonet lug as of yet (would that this will please the leftist gun-haters), but here there are protrusions on both sides, which engage notches either side of the handguard in order to retain it in the front. Pivoting on these lugs, the handguard is locked into place at the rear by a single push-pin, and is fairly rigid when in place. Made of a very strong Space Age synthetic, the handguard can be equipped with any number of M1913 rails in order to mount lights, such as those from Laser Devices, Insight Technology, Pentagon, Streamlight, SureFire and others, plus vertical foregrips, such as the GripPod and other equipment. While we're here, it's a good time to mention that the Masada already exists in a half-dozen configurations including a monolithic upper receiver component that will not only free-

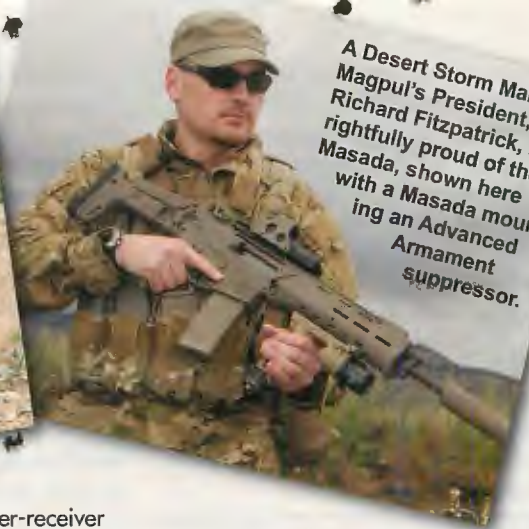
The Masada is available in several versions, such as the precision rifle seen here.



One of the most advanced combat rifles of all time, Magpul's Masada combines many proven design features with its own innovations. The rifle here mounts the very effective Advanced Armament 5.56mm suppressor. Camouflage uniform is TruSpec Multi-Cam.

sight of the aircraft-alloy upper-receiver housing to the folding front sight, is a one-piece MilStd 1913 rail. Integral with the housing, this rail provides an uninterrupted mounting platform for virtually any optic. During our tests, we used the new Aimpoint Comp M4 with 3X Magnifier, Eotech 553, Trijicon 4x32mm ACOG and AN-PVS14 night vision scope. What's more, a 100% return to zero is assured when removing and replacing optics with suitable mounts.

Recently adopted by the U.S. Army, the Comp M4 operates on a single AA battery, and is scheduled to replace all Comp M3 Aimpoint Sights in the Army. The Eotech Model 553 is popular with many Special Forces troops, and the Trijicon 4x32mm



A Desert Storm Marine, Magpul's President, Richard Fitzpatrick, is rightfully proud of the Masada, shown here with a Masada mount and an Advanced Armament suppressor.

ACOG has been standard issue with the United States Marine Corps for some time.

A real Quick-Change Barrel

Removing the handguard forward off the Masada exposes a folding stainless-steel wire handle mounted onto a steel collar that surrounds the barrel just forward of a steel trunnion in the upper receiver. After locking the bolt group open, this handle can be unlocked from its detente and rotated 60 degrees counter-clock-wise to release the

float the barrel, but also provide a quad rail forend system. In addition to the above accessories, this rigid forend can mount laser sights.

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collar from the trunnion. The barrel and assembled piston system can then be withdrawn from the upper receiver group. Following this, the short-stroke piston assembly can be disassembled from the barrel for cleaning if necessary. After reassembly and aligning the parts, the barrel can be reassembled by rotating the collar handle back down to its 6 o'clock position, where it locks tightly in place. Barrels can also be instantly exchanged for another of the same or a different length, and such replacements have proven to shoot within 1 minute of angle (MOA) without any sight-in.

Of particular interest is the Masada's trunnion into which the barrel is mounted. On most rifles trunnions are not separate, but are integral with the upper receiver and most receivers in rifles similar to the Masada are made of aircraft quality alloy, with some even being made of plastic (can you say melt-down?). Being made as a separate part, the Masada's trunnion is made of CNC-machined heat-treated steel. Coming off either side of this trunnion are heat-treated steel



Renowned photographer, Ichiro Nagata, checks out the Masada. Ichi is also a serious three-gun competitor.

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channels. Permanently secured to the trunnion, these channels support and guide the bolt carrier during operation. To the rear of the piston, the operating rod travels through a guide machined in the top of the trunnion. This arrangement is the backbone of the upper receiver.

Secured to the trunnion by its collar with interrupted threads, the Masada's barrel contains an extension into which the rotating bolt locks, just like the M16 rifle. The multi-lug bolt and the bolt carrier somewhat resembles that of the H&K G36, XM8, the FN SCAR and the much earlier ArmaLite AR-18, and the recoil spring is housed inside the rear of the bolt carrier and, in the Masada, is captive.

The Receiver Housing

To prevent debris from entering the upper receiver and to protect the operator's face, an outer shell covers the trunnion and guide rails and becomes one with them. For this, Magpul uses an extruded outer receiver shell of 7000 series aircraft aluminum, the hardest aluminum that is possible to extrude. As previously outlined, this housing contains the full-length monolithic rail. Folding back-up iron sights (BUIS) are mounted on both ends of the top receiver rail, or will be: the folding front sight is part of the Masada package and is adjustable for elevation. As of yet, Magpul's folding rear sight has not been developed, but any of the many folding AR rear sights will work fine on the Masada's rail.

Being ambidextrous, the Masada's charging handle is also utterly simple. The current handle can be changed from right to left-hand operation in about 30 seconds, but in either position the other hand can still operate it by a small protrusion that remains. However, this handle is being changed to a push-through type that can be pushed out on either side at any time, where it will be held by a detente. This is not only applicable for general use, but is



Johnston firing one of many full-auto bursts from the Masada. The rifle was extremely controllable.

very handy when transitioning the rifle in CQB roles. Like the M16 rifle, the receiver groups of the Masada hinge open and are held together by push-pins. However, unlike the Masada's all-metal upper receiver, the lower receiver is made entirely of the same proprietary super tough synthetic as the buttstock, handguard and the magazine, which we'll get to shortly. This material contributes to the rifle's light weight and can be molded in virtually any color. The lower receiver housing is also molded with several magazine wells and magazines. In addition to the standard M16 lower receiver group is one that

uses AK-47 magazines, and a version for a new swing-in magazine of Magpul's design. A special new magazine and receiver for the 6.8mm SPC is also being looked at.

Magpul's patented cheekpiece is quickly adjustable for proper cheekweld, especially when optics are mounted.

Opposing pressure-locks on either side of the buttstock allow the support hand to instantly adjust the stock for length of pull while the Masada is shouldered, in order to accommodate various

clothing and ergonomics of the operator. The stock can also be folded to the right for storage or for use in tight spaces, and the Masada can also be fired in this mode.

The semi-automatic version of the Masada uses the standard AR-15 hammer, trigger, disconnect and springs, but these are housed in a drop-in module held in place by the safety/selector. The selective-fire module is slightly different and can not be assembled into the semi-auto lower receiver. This module uses a simple sear trip mechanism with a connector that is pulled forward by the bolt carrier, after the round has been chambered. The system

works similar to that of the AR-18 and M14, except that all parts are contained in the module.

Using an FN-style ambidextrous bolt hold-open/release mounted just behind the magazine well, the Masada also uses a unique and simple ambidextrous magazine release, and the standard model accepts all variations of the AR-15 magazine. The safety/selector is also ambidextrous and operates in the logical manner of the M16, i.e., lever back (SAFE) equals bullets stay back, lever semi-forward, equals semi-automatic and lever fully forward equals full automatic.

This is the way I teach it; don't look at the markings on the receiver, as you can't see them at night and trying to read them in daylight can get you killed...Memorize them! The trigger guard is not hinged, but is enlarged to accommodate shooting with gloves.

Magpul's P-MAG

As mentioned, the Masada will use any AR-15 type magazine, but Magpul has developed a totally new polymer magazine (P-MAG), which may very well put all other M16 magazines in storage. When I saw

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Magpul's President, Richard Fitzpatrick, jump up and down on one of these magazines at the SHOT Show I was quite surprised, but it got better. Made of the same space age synthetic as is used in the Masada's lower receiver, butt stock, handguard and some small parts, this magazine surpassed everything else in a real torture ordeal -- the "1/2 ton Chevy pickup test."

Using its own asphalt parking lot, Magpul laid samples of virtually every other 30-round AR-15 magazine on the pavement and ran over them along with their new P-MAG. After this first phase of the test all other magazines either shattered, were flattened and came apart, or were otherwise totally ruined. Though slightly scarred, the Magpul magazine still worked perfectly. Next, the truck was parked with the rear tire on the magazine. After a few minutes the magazine still didn't break, so the accelerator was depressed causing the wheel to spin and send the magazine flying some 35 yards across the lot. This left the magazine's exterior really scratched up, but it came through working perfectly, and it still does.

Magpul's new magazine comes in all the popular colors below and even comes with a window allowing the operator to view the loaded status, and there is an even newer translucent 30-round version through which all one's ammunition can be seen.



Magpul's new P-Mag was the only one that passed the 1/2-ton Chevy pickup test. It still works fine.



Magpul's 20" long-range Masada is highly accurate. As with all the other versions, this one will be offered in several calibers.

Multiple Models

While the standard rifle is the "flagship" of the Masada line, it can be had in an 18-inch heavy barrel, precision rifle variation with a rigid multi-rail handguard for use with an optic and heavy bipod. Lights and lasers, such as those from Laser Devices, LaserMax, SureFire, Insight Technology and others can be mounted in virtually any location on this rail system. All versions of the Masada can be had in popular colors, such as black, OD green, Coyote brown, Foliage green, Flat Dark Earth and white. Other colors and camouflage finishes can be done with Duracoat by Lauer Weaponry, or one of its authorized dealers.

Down Range

We tested two versions of the Masada including the heavy barrel precision rifle and the standard lightweight version, which we fired several hundred rounds through. All who shot the rifle found it to handle excellently and to be extremely controllable on full automatic. The question came up as to a piston-operated rifle having more felt recoil than one using direct gas. After comparing both systems on site and after returning home, I'd say this may very well be true, but I don't know what the point is. More than 40 years ago I cut my teeth on .30 caliber M1 Garands, M14's and FN-FAL's, so studying differences in recoil from a varmint cartridge becomes moot for me.

Slings

At the highest quality, this simple 2-point sling operates like a 3-point sling with none of the complexities and allows instant transitioning, adjustment and

disengagement. If that's not enough, it comes in all popular colors and ad bot a 3-point or single point sling. the Masada comes with all the appropriate attachment locations.

Lights and Lasers

We shot the Masada using SureFire's Model 500, M900 and M951XM07 Tactical Weapon Lights, as well as the brand new SureFire X300 Tactical Light in conjunction with the GripPod and its brand new light rail available from Mounting Solutions Plus. With these lights, we used the SureFire L72 Laser Sight mounted on a side rail on the handguard. SureFire Tactical Weapon Lights provide plenty of lumens to illuminate targets out to 100 yards and the L72 Laser provides instant target acquisition without the need to use conventional sights. The Masada's rail options provide an unlimited mounting platform for these tactical tools.

Masada

So, you're probably wondering about the name, Masada? Is Richard Fitzpatrick Jewish? Is Israel somehow involved with the



Here the Masada is seen with its stock folded. The stock is also adjustable for length of pull and height. The suppressor is by Advanced Armament.

Masada project? Only in spirit. An avid student of history, Fitzpatrick can recount the story of the Masada as vividly as if he were there, and with equal enthusiasm.

Built by Herod the Great, the Masada was a fortress built along the Dead Sea to protect the Jews from the Egyptians. Captured by the Romans in 4 B.C. the Masada remained a Roman garrison until 66 A.D. when a sect of the Jews, called the Zealots, revolted and captured the Masada. The Zealots retained control of the widow line.

Masada until 73 A.D. when it was attacked by 15,000 Roman soldiers under Flavius. One thousand Zealots including the troops and their families, held off the Romans as long as possible, finally declaring, "Death before enslavement!" Today, all Israeli soldiers are sworn in on the Masada where they are issued their rifles and bibles. In this time of freedom's greatest uncertainty, the name given this exciting rifle needs no explanation.

The new Masada looks to be way ahead of the rest in all categories. It is the result of real "gun guys" thinking outside the box while welcoming input from end users, something too few companies understand. The Masada should be in full production as you read this. For more information contact Magpul Industries Corp., P.O. Box 17697, Dept. SOF, Boulder, CO 80308; phone: 877-4MAGPUL, on the web at www.magpul.com .

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Masada Specifications

Calibers:	5.56x45mm & 7.62x39mm (others to come).
Muzzle Velocity	3000 fps (5.56mm).
Operation:	Short-stroke piston.
Locking:	Rotating multi-lug bolt.
Type of Fire:	Selective or semi-auto only.
Barrel Length:	11.5", 14.5" & 18" standard.
Overall Length (14.5" bbl.):	(stock extend) 35". (stock retract) 32". (stock folded) 25".
Weight:	6.7 lbs.
Rate of Fire:	750 rpm.
Feed Device:	Any M16 magazine.
Safety:	Safety selector.
Sights:	(front) Magpul folding, adj. for elevation. (rear) Any M1913 rail rear sight. (Optics) Monolithic M1913 rail accepts all optics.
Stocks:	Space-Age synthetic in any color.
Finish:	MilSpec.
Special Feature:	Quick-change barrel.
Price:	To be announced.

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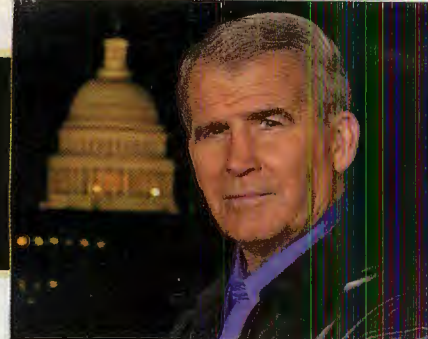
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BY LT.COL. OLIVER NORTH, USMC (REP)



Mullah Meetings

GEORGETOWN, S.C. -- Here in the "Low Country" along the Carolina coast, where Francis Marion once drove British Redcoats madder than the noonday sun, patriotism is a serious topic. Thousands of young South Carolinians are serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and in the Persian Gulf. "Support Our Troops" signs are ubiquitous. Maybe that's why so many of these good people profess confusion about what's happening in that part of the world -- and in Washington.

This week, most of the conversations with shopkeepers, tradesmen and the nice folks we see once or twice a year when we vacation down here have gone something like this: "Love your show on Fox News. Your reports from the war with our boys are great. Are those people in Congress going to pull 'em out before the job is done?" And, "why are we caving into the Iranians? Are they really building a bomb?"

Compliments are great. We all love to hear them. I do too, but being considered an "expert" on congressional misfeasance and the vague trajectory of American foreign policy is getting to be more of a hurdle than I can leap. The problem became especially acute this week in the aftermath of the House of Representatives passing a resolution calling for U.S. troops to be withdrawn from Iraq by April 1, 2008 and our State Department's announcement that we should have "another face-to-face meeting" with the Iranians.

"What good does it do to talk to the Iranians? Don't they just lie?" asked the young man at the hardware store where I went to buy what I needed to repair a broken screen door. He said he had served in Iraq with the South Carolina National Guard and has friends still "over there." His question deserved an answer, but I didn't have one. I'm as confounded by these developments as he is, but I vowed to get back to him after I learned more.

When I got back to the house, instead

of fixing the screen door, I turned on my computer and groped around the Internet for why we need to meet with the mullahs. According to Foggy Bottom spokesperson Sean McCormack, we should talk to the theocrats running Tehran, because we have "to directly convey to the Iranian authorities that if they wish to see a more stable, secure, peaceful Iraq, which is what they have said they would like to see, that they need to change their behavior."

Apparently McCormack delivered this line with a straight face and no one laughed out loud or fell off their chairs at the thought of the Iranians changing their behavior, because our diplomats sipped tea and chatted with them. Maybe that's why so many citizens down here are confused about what's happening in Washington. These folks may be 500 miles from our nation's capital, but they think that the people in our government ought to -- as one put it to me yesterday -- "make sure we're not being played for suckers," and he's right.

Earlier this month, in a teleconference from Baghdad, Army Brig. Gen. Kevin Bergner described how the Quds Force, an elite unit of Iran's Revolutionary Guard has been playing "key roles in the planning and execution of bombings, kidnappings, extortion, sectarian murders, illegal arms trafficking, and other attacks against the Iraqi people, the police, the Iraqi army, and coalition forces." He went on to note that, "Our intelligence reveals that the senior leadership in Iran is aware of this activity."

Can our State Department's diplomats say anything that would persuade the duplicitous "senior leadership in Iran" to "change their behavior"? There is little evidence that "talks" with Tehran can produce anything except Iranian advantage.

For more than four years European emissaries, U.N. officials and U.S. negotiators have been trying to convince the Ayatollahs to desist from building nuclear weapons. It hasn't worked.

Six months ago, U.S. arms experts

estimated that it would be three to five years before the Iranians could build nuclear bombs. Last month Israel's Directorate of Military Intelligence revised its forecast for Tehran attaining a nuclear capability to "mid-2009." And last week, our diplomats complained that Beijing is continuing to ship equipment and technology to Iran that can be used to build nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. In response to these gloomy developments, the United Nations, the Europeans and liberal U.S. politicians, fearful that the Ayatollahs might cut oil production, counsel caution -- and more talks.

Thus far, talking has gotten us nowhere. Given the history of previous "negotiations" with the radical Islamists running Persia, their stated goals for driving "infidels" from "the lands of the Prophet" -- and their unabated quest for nuclear weapons, we should be quietly supporting anti-Ayatollah movements inside Iran instead of further legitimizing the regime in Tehran with more talks.

Early this morning, I again encountered the young veteran who had buttonholed me at the hardware store earlier in the week. "Well," he asked, "did you find out if we're really going to sit down with the Iranians?" "Looks like it's going to happen," I replied lamely.

He shook his head and said, "It just doesn't make any sense to me." I agree.

Oliver North is the host of "War Stories" on the FOX News Channel. To find out more about Oliver North, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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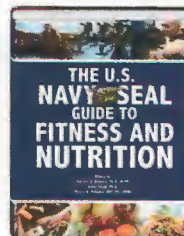
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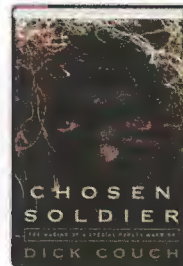
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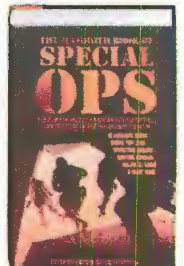
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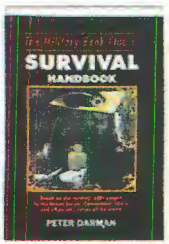
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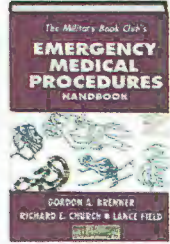
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